

The Guaranteed Daily Circulation of the "Daily Illustrated Mirror" Exceeds 120,000 Copies.

The Daily

ILLUSTRATED

1/2d.

1/2d.

A Paper for Men and Women.

Mirror.

No. 94.

Registered at the G. P. O.
as a Newspaper.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1904.

One Halfpenny.

GUNBOAT'S HARD FATE.

Russian Mouse for Which
Two Great Japanese Cats
Lie in Wait.

THE "MANDJUR" COMEDY.

War, like any well-arranged drama, has its comic interludes.

For a moment that bustling stage manager, Admiral Togo, has paused in his presentation of "sensational nautical effects." The thunder of his guns is silent for the moment; the stage is no longer wreathed in smoke and illuminated with the glare of combat.

Now the curtain rises on the light comedy incident of the Mandjur. The Mandjur is a small Russian gunboat, and she is in a particularly horrid position.

At the time of the outbreak of war the Russian ships were disposed in a manner most convenient from the Japanese point of view. The main squadrons were completely exposed to attack at Port Arthur; the Varia and Koriets were at a port where they were certain to meet an overwhelming force; and the Mandjur was in Shanghai, without a possibility of rejoining the main fleet in the north.

THE MOUSE AND THE CATS.

Unhappy Mandjur! Her position is that of a very small mouse, with a ferret behind it, and two huge cats, with fearsome claws and teeth, waiting outside the mouse-hole.

China is the ferret. With no doubt a malicious smile—for they don't love Russia—the sleek mandarins of Shanghai declared the other day that the Mandjur must leave port!

At all costs, China must preserve her neutrality.

The captain of the Mandjur said he would rather not. He had the best of reasons, for the cats outside are two very efficiently-armed Japanese cruisers, who are lying in wait for the Mandjur's departure. A single shot from the big guns of either of them would be sufficient to send the poor little gunboat to the bottom of the China Sea.

Then China began to press for the departure of the Mandjur. She really must go, or the Son of Heaven would be seriously compromised in the eyes of the world. The smooth mandarins put the matter forcibly. Look at the dangers of breaking neutrality—look at what England had to pay for her neglect in the Alabama case, etc., etc.

The "Velly solly," one can imagine them saying, "but you really must oblige us by weighing anchor. We've got into a lot of trouble lately with the Western world, and have had to pay all kinds of indemnities. Our treasury is low, and you know what a peppery creature is our little Dowager Empress is. We shall all be cut asunder at the waist, or boiled in oil, if you bring us into trouble. Really, my dear captain, don't be so selfish and inconsiderate. Please get out at once."

The captain of the Mandjur thinks of the waiting cruisers, feels warm all over, and he won't go till he's turned out.

So the matter rests. The mouse is still in Shanghai; the cats are cruising about somewhere in the neighbourhood of Chusan.

AN ABSURD STORY.

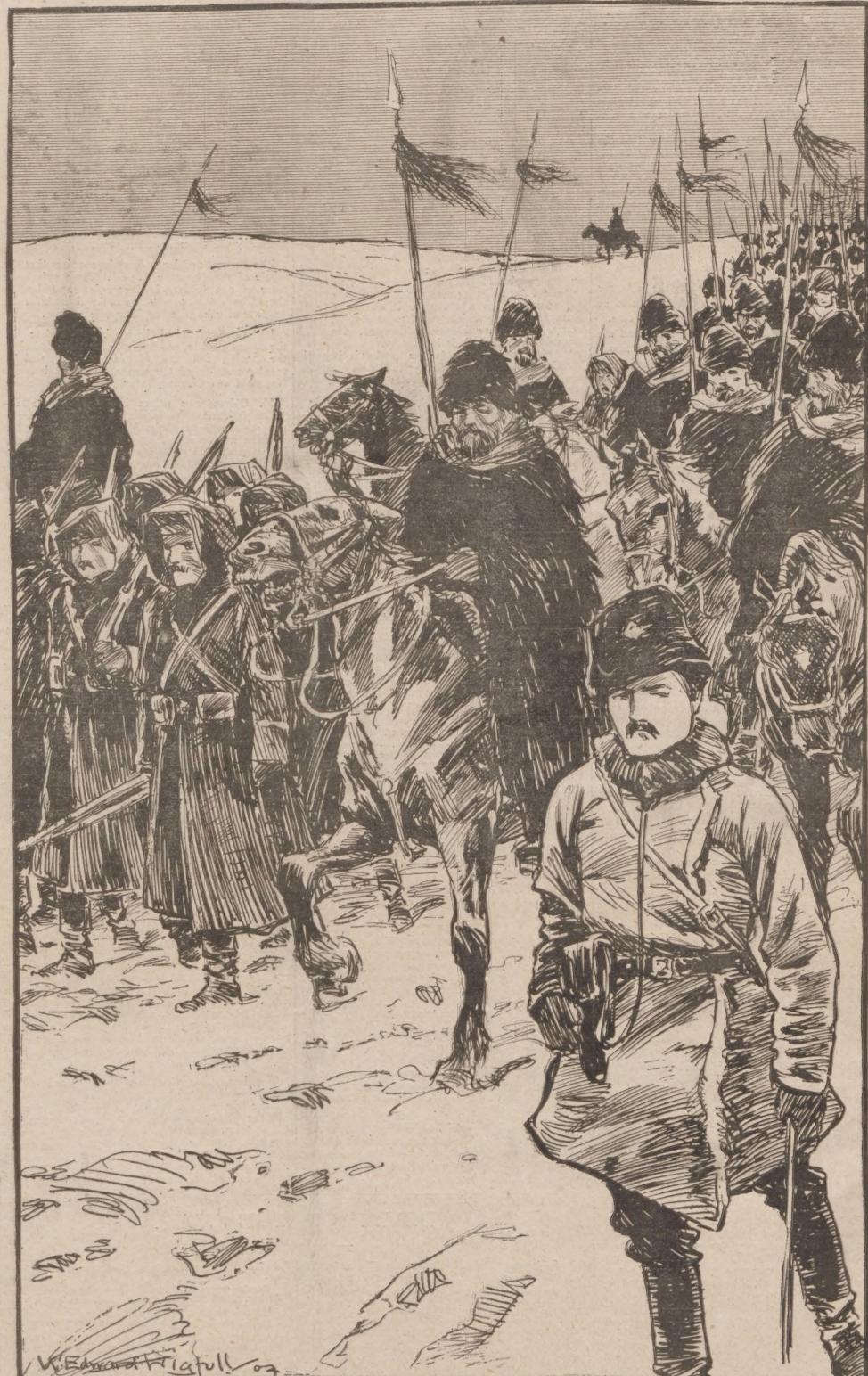
Meanwhile, Russian officials at St. Petersburg see here, as everywhere, the sinister hand of England. They say that the British Consul demanded that the Mandjur should leave the port, and actually delivered an ultimatum threatening force. "Then," according to this story, "the Russian captain gave way, but he is stated to have added that, in case of an attack, his first shot would be fired upon the British Consul."

This story is, of course, absurd. It is the Chinese officials, and they alone, that have demanded the Mandjur's departure.

Through now pro-Russians, we can sympathise with the unfortunate officers and men of this little Russian vessel. They must go sooner or later, and, when they do, they are in for a bad quarter of an hour.

Further War News on Page 2.

LEAVING PORT ARTHUR TO ITS FATE.



Admiral Alexieff has retired 600 miles from Port Arthur, to Harbin, which he is fortifying as his base of operations. The garrisons of Port Arthur and Vladivostok will have to take care of themselves as best they can against the attacks of the Japs.

WILL WAR SPREAD?

Is it England Against the Continent?

THE KAISER'S ATTITUDE.

Germany said to Support Russia.

CHINA NOW DEFIANT.

Her Attitude May Complicate Matters.

LITTLE NEWS FROM THE EAST.

There is no definite news of further operations by land or sea.

Great importance is attached to a Chinese declaration which states that the tombs at Mukden must be respected by belligerents, or China will take forcible measures.

From a French source comes the story that the Kaiser has addressed an autograph letter to the Tsar, and that a "possible war with Great Britain" is anticipated.

The eyes of the world are on the Russian gun-boat Mandjur. She is at present at Shanghai, but has been ordered by the Chinese authorities to leave, and two Japanese cruisers are lying in wait for her.

The Japanese have captured two more Russian steamers, the Kolik and the Bobrik.

No new blow has been delivered by the Japanese fleet, and there is little definite information to be gathered as to the land operations on either side.

The Russians are in force on the Yalu, and are even said to have pushed large bodies of troops southward into Korean territory, occupying positions on the road between Seoul, the capital, and Wiju. The Japanese censorship allows no indication to come through as to the disposition of the Japanese troops.

A boastful statement comes from Russia that in less than a fortnight she will have in Manchuria an army of 400,000 men. How she is to get them there, however, is a mystery, for the Siberian Railway is the only means of bringing reinforcements from the west, and its capacity is certainly not equal to so gigantic an undertaking. The statement can be classed with the other fanfaronades emanating from Admiral Alexieff. It is believed the Viceroy is now at Mukden.

More interesting than the meagre military news is the political aspect of the situation. The rumour as to Germany's wish to form a Russo-Franco-German alliance against Great Britain and Japan is interesting, though not entitled to too much respect. What is more probable is that Prussian statesmen will do their best to make the localisation of the war difficult, in furtherance of the usual German policy of "fishing in troubled waters."

China's Note to the belligerents suggests that she may early convert her neutrality into open hostility to Russia, thus greatly increasing the difficulty of the situation, and lessening the hope of confining the area of hostilities. China's attitude has not been very consistent with the duties of a neutral, and Russia fully recognises this. In a St. Petersburg dispatch yesterday it was stated that "it is well understood that Russia will only regard China as neutral if in reality no act is permitted by land or by sea coming within the category of those which may be contrary to the engagement of China to remain neutral."

CHINA DEFIANT.

Declaration that Suggests She May Possibly Join in the War.

Great importance is attached to a Note which China has addressed to both the Russian and Japanese Governments.

It states that China has taken steps for the observance of the rules of neutrality, but adds:—

"Mukden and Hsing King, being sites of the Imperial mausoleums and palaces, the Governor-General concerned has been instructed to guard them with the greatest vigilance. Towns, villages, and official buildings in the three Eastern Provinces, as well as the persons and properties of their inhabitants, shall not be damaged by the two belligerents. Garrisons have been despatched by the Pei Yang Commissioner to such districts lying west of the Liao as were already evacuated by Russia."

"In the various provinces, as well as in Outer and Inner Mongolia, the rules of neutrality are to be enforced, so that no troops of the two belligerents may intrude thereupon, and in case they shall have crossed the boundary China will take measures for repelling them."

"Such measures on the part of China, however, shall not be taken as making rupture in the friendly relations. The three provinces (of Manchuria), as well as the rights pertaining thereto, shall remain under Chinese sovereignty whichever side may gain the victory, and shall not be occupied by either of such Powers now at war."

Japan has replied promising to respect the neutrality of China so long as it is respected by Russia.

The tone of China's communication, it will be noted, is almost defiant, and indicates her determination to claim the Manchurian territory which Russia has seized.

The question is whether neutrality may not be exchanged for hostility against Russia—an event that would have most serious results.

IS GERMANY FRIENDLY?

SUGGESTION THAT SHE MAY SUPPORT RUSSIA AGAINST ENGLAND.

Is Germany seeking to stir up trouble between ourselves and Russia?

This momentous question is raised by a remarkable article in the Paris "Figaro," which states that the Kaiser has sent an autograph letter to the Tsar relating to the war, and dealing with the attitude of Great Britain. It is added that St. Petersburg reliance is placed on German support, and rumour represents the Berlin Government as ready to assist Russia without reserve.

An attempt to set the two Powers by the ears would be a new departure in German policy. Prussian statesmen are totally without scruple if material advantage is in view, and it has always been their aim to make bad blood between Great Britain and Russia.

Germany stands to gain by any disturbance in Europe in which we might unhappily be involved, and in the East, where she regards with bitter jealousy the predominance of Great Britain, her advantage would be greater still. Nothing would please her better than a great war which would enable the "German Michael," in the elegant language of Count von Buelow, to "get her fair share of the Chinese sausage."

Fortunately, France seems not at all inclined to fight for Russia; her attitude so far has been one of good sense and good feeling towards England.

HOSTILITY TO ENGLAND. INCREASING

The telegram dealing with the question runs as follows:—

PARIS, Friday.

The "Figaro" has received a telegram from Eydtkuhnen from a personage who is at present returning from St. Petersburg, and who, owing to his position in the Russian official world, is particularly well informed.

The telegram says: "An aide-de-camp of the Emperor William has been to the Winter Palace with an autograph letter from his Sovereign relating to the war, and dealing principally with the attitude of Great Britain."

"In official circles reliance continues to be placed on the support of Germany. Persistent rumours represent her as being ready to assist Russia without reserve. Even a change in the balance of European power which would unite Russia, Germany, and France is openly discussed. Hostility towards Great Britain is increasing."

"An attitude openly hostile to Russia is attributed to her, and public feeling in Russia is stirred against her. In military circles a possible war with Great Britain is even spoken of."

"Admiral Rozhestvenski, the Chief of the General Staff of the Navy, declared in a private conversation that it was impossible to send to Port Arthur all the naval officers who were asked for, because they might, perhaps soon, be needed in the Baltic."—Reuter.

GERMAN FORCE IN THE FAR EAST.

BERLIN, Friday.

In the Budget Committee of the Reichstag today, during the debate on the estimates for the German troops in the Far East, Baron von Richthofen, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, said that the maintenance of the German forces in China at their present strength was imperative in Germany's own interest, even without taking into consideration the international agreements concerning China which were still in force.

"In normal circumstances," continued Baron von Richthofen, "we might take steps with a view to terminating the engagements entered into towards other Powers in this matter, but at the present time this is impossible. None of the Powers concerned thinks of withdrawing or weakening the military measures taken in support of their policy in the Far East."—Reuter.

FRANCE LESS STRICT THAN ENGLAND.

PARIS, Friday.

The publication yesterday of the French neutrality regulations in connection with the Russo-Japanese war has called attention to the wide difference existing between these regulations and those enforced by Great Britain, particularly in connection with the duration of stay allowed to a belligerent vessel in a French port.

This is not limited to twenty-four hours after the taking in of necessary stores and the completion of essential repairs, as is the case in British ports.—Reuter.

RUSSIAN WARSHIP HAS ARRIVED AT THE CANNALS.

The authorities have notified the captain that he may remain in the port for a limited time only, and that he cannot be provided with more coal than would enable him to reach the nearest Russian port.

SUICIDE THROUGH THE WAR.

BERLIN, Friday.

A well-known Berlin broker committed suicide last night in consequence of losses amounting to £20,000 sustained by him through the fall in Russian bonds.—Reuter.

A number of English ladies residing in St. Petersburg have formed an association for preparing lint, bandages, and similar surgical accessories for the wounded.

In the various provinces, as well as in Outer and Inner Mongolia, the rules of neutrality are to be enforced, so that no troops of the two belligerents may intrude thereupon, and in case they shall have crossed the boundary China will take measures for repelling them.

"Such measures on the part of China, however, shall not be taken as making rupture in the friendly relations. The three provinces (of Manchuria), as well as the rights pertaining thereto, shall remain under Chinese sovereignty whichever side may gain the victory, and shall not be occupied by either of such Powers now at war."

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WAR FLASHES.

THROWING LIGHT ON THE DOINGS OF BOTH SIDES.

Three thousand soldiers are crossing Lake Baikal every day, and are being hurried eastwards.

It is announced that the Japanese armies in the field will be paid in paper currency issued by the Government and redeemable in gold on the termination of the war.

Baron von Rosen and M. Pavloff, the ex-Ministers for Russia at Tokio and Seoul, interviewed at Shanghai, were very despondent as to Russia's chances of success.

Russia is said to have ordered from the Whitehead Torpedo Works at Fiume, Austria, a large number of torpedoes, to be made to the exact pattern of those bought by Japan.

The "Novoye Vremya" administers Japan as a serious and enterprising enemy. But Russia, with an army of three millions, regards a war as against 300,000 Japanese as a "mere expedition."

The Paris "Figaro" testifies to the cordial understanding now existing between France and England, and gives very conclusive reasons why neither of them is likely to be drawn into the conflict.

It is reported, says the "Times" correspondent at Tokio, that the Russian shell broke up against the Japanese armour in the action on the 9th. The Japanese shell with the Shimose powder was efficient and destructive.

Only a few months ago the Russian War Minister, General Kuropatkin, was in Tokio, and explained to Japanese statesmen the prospective aspects of a war "as if he could play with them like a cat with a mouse."

Beyond a general outline scheme formed months in advance," says a retired Japanese officer, "Japan has no cut-and-dried scheme. She modifies it daily, if necessary. The surprise element is generally the keynote of her strategy."

The Emperor of Japan has given orders that the whole of the Japanese Imperial Treasury's large store of old gold and silver coins and bullion should be handed over to the national bank for the purpose of strengthening its specie reserve.

Japan's command of the sea is so complete that the coasting trade, which has been suspended since the opening of the war, is being resumed, and the regular running of the line of steamers between Nagasaki and Chemulpho will begin immediately.

M. Clémenceau writes in the "Aurore":—"French intervention in the Far East would be to the advantage of Germany. Let people reflect whether it is to save France from another disaster like that of 1870 or to try and obtain Manchuria for the Tsar, that at the cost of so many sacrifices, we have reconstituted our military power?"

A rather curious light is thrown upon the action of this peace-loving monarch (the Tsar) by the disclosures made in the French Press concerning what went on at the time of the Fashoda incident. If peace was preserved it was entirely owing to the calmness and good sense of French statesmen. "Times."

"Little Jap Horner; or, The Bear and the Oneiwa" is one of the inevitable war poems. One more run:

The little Jap Horner sprang from his corner quite prepared for battle. He put in his thumb and he pulled out a plump white Tzar. Poor England guarded the window, America watched the door. The Anglo-Saxon blood was up as it seldom had been before.

The Lion said to the Eagle, "Whoever comes this way, let him join Jack and the Stars and Stripes to play!"

When matters of national or international moment are afoot, London cabmen are generally up date with witty topical allusions. One of them rounded another in a war of words this week by saying with utter contempt: "Go on! You fit to drive a cab! Why, you ain't fit to command a Russian battleship, you ain't!"—London Evening News."

The Japanese community in America are righteously indignant at the oft-repeated statement in the Russian declarations: "God is on our side." Mr. Uchida, Consul-General at New York, says that the evidence rather indicates the contrary. "It is true," he said, "that we have torpedoed many of the Russian ships—that is the act of man; but the freezing of Russian soldiers at Lake Baikal is the act of the Almighty."—Daily Telegraph."

The "China Gazette" writes of extraordinary corruption at Port Arthur. It says: "On paper the regulation quantity of flour is in the stores, but in reality the greater part has been sold for the benefit of the officials, and has not been replaced. The general belief is that a great many of the sacks contain sand. The tinned meat in the stores is about ten years old, and the tins recently opened all had a most unpleasant odour."

The insincerity of Russia's absurd talk about Japan commencing war "treacherously" is shown by the fact that on January 9 Captain Byelavoff, of the Korietz, the gunboat destroyed at Chemulpho, wrote: "I am ready to go to sea at any minute. From day to day we are looking for a tussle with the Japanese; we expect a sudden attack without any declaration of war. All our woodwork is being taken ashore."

The House said the same, the division giving Government a majority of 80 (231 to 151).

The Address was agreed to, and hon. members having finished their duties for the week, turned over the馮s to hear the Lords debate on the fiscal problem.

IMPORTS AND POOR.

The Duke on Balfour Crooks on Labour.

The electric lights in the Gilded Chamber were blazing late last night. Their lordships were again in the throes of the fiscal controversy.

A great gathering of lords and ladies awaited the Duke of Devonshire's speech.

In deep, clear tones, his Grace explained the reasons which had induced him to delay his resignation from the Cabinet so long after his colleagues had left it. "I should not have thought it necessary to make any statement, but the Prime Minister has thought fit to answer my letter of resignation in what I must call a somewhat

Evincing considerable emotion, the Duke went on to say that the language of the Prime Minister and some of his colleagues had caused him great anxiety and doubt. He came to the question of ladies' evicted from the Cabinet, and "my lords and ladies" evicted a quickened interest in the historic figure at the Table. "I had a conversation with the Prime Minister in which he referred to the possibility of Mr. Chamberlain resigning; but I did not understand the resignation had been definitely tendered."

"It was not until after I had received the correspondence between Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Balfour that I found it would be impossible for me when Parliament re-assembled to stand up as a member of the Government and still remain a free-trader.

The Lords Cheer

Flushed and animated, the Duke turned to the question of the Government's policy. "Where is the clear lead the Prime Minister promised at Sheffield?" (A deep cheer came from the Opposition benches.)

A great wave of cheering, the like of which the writer has never heard in the Gilded Chamber, swept across the Opposition benches as the veteran Duke, at the close of his seventy-five seat below the gallery, took his newly-ascended seat behind the

The little Lord Chancellor, be-winged and gowned, jumped up from the woolsack, and Rosebery and his fellow-occupants of the cross-benches moved to the neighbouring crimson benches to catch Lord Halsbury's utterances. The transfer of seats, however, proved unnecessary. The little man could be heard everywhere. He gesticulated with spirit; he shook his fist at the Duke.

LABOUR DAY IN THE COMMONS.

It was a great day for the horny-handed Labour members. Those blunt, matter-of-fact men, hard-headed, stern-featured, simply-dressed in their moderation of tone, their unsophisticated humour won the plaudits of all politicians, from Conservative Ministers to the Opposition.

The debate which brought the "sons of妩" into the good books of hon. members was initiated by the member for Merthyr Tydfil, Mr. Keir Hardwick, who has made a considerable reputation by his Independent Labour attitude, has not addressed the House since his severe operation. In rising to speak yesterday it was noticed that the little Scotsman looked older than usual, while his red beard had perceptibly whitened. These, however, were only signs of physical mellowing. His intellect remained its accustomed cuteness.

Having informed his son brown hat, the member for Merthyr neatly dressed in a dark tweed suit, asked the permission of "Mr. Speaker" to move an amendment expressing regret that, in view of distress arising from lack of employment in the Government had not seen fit to recommend to deal with such lack of the execution of public works.

Speaking in strong Scottish accents, Mr. Hardwick claimed that the question of the unemployed was not a local matter, but, unfortunately, general throughout the country.

A People's Orator.

A thick-set, round-shouldered, little man, with a dark beard and a pair of bright eyes, decided to second the amendment. It was Will Crooks, the "Woolwich Wonder." In strong East End accents, he will support the proposal for creating labour colonies, but disclaimed any sympathy for the loafer. The man who was "horn-tined" overstituted a standing difficulty.

Hugging the lappels of his reefer-jacket, Mr. Crooks enlightened members upon the little ways of this particular type of manhood. He gave a concrete illustration. "Awakened by his wife at six o'clock in the morning, the lazy one would ask, 'Is it raining?' 'No.' 'Does it look beautiful fine?' he would exclaim, 'Oh, dear! I wish it was snowing!'

Hon. members roared, but Mr. Crooks, like an experienced story-teller, kept his countenance.

Mr. Walter Long replied for the Ministry. He simply stated that there was a difficulty in connection with the unemployed, and that it was most desirable to deal with it, then nobody would have opposed it. By constitutional practice the question of confidence in the Government was involved, and so, "No."

The House said the same, the division giving Government a majority of 80 (231 to 151).

The Address was agreed to, and hon. members having finished their duties for the week, turned over the馮s to hear the Lords debate on the fiscal problem.

THE PREMIER IS RETURNING.

We learn on excellent authority that Mr. Balfour is expected to return to the House of Commons on Tuesday next.

"DAILY MAIL" WAR MAP.

In order to cope with the large demand for the "Daily Mail" Map of the "Far East," successive editions, amounting in all to 300,000 copies, have been produced.

Clearly printed and attractively coloured, it shows on a large scale the entire area likely to be affected by both naval and military operations.

TO-DAY'S WEATHER.

Our special weather forecast, for to-day is: Southerly and south-westerly squally winds; unsettled, dull and mild; rain at times generally.

Lighting-up time: 6.23 p.m.

Sea passages will be disturbed generally; very rough in the Irish Channel.

TO-DAY'S NEWS AT A GLANCE.

There is little news from the front; but an important step on the part of China is reported. She declares that the Imperial Tombs in Manchuria must be respected or she will have to employ force to secure that object. The tone of the communication suggests that China may, in certain circumstances, exchange her neutrality for active hostility against Russia. A sensational rumour suggests a possible Franco-Russian-German alliance directed against England.—(Page 2.)

In the Commons the debate on the Address was resumed by Mr. Keir Hardie, who moved an amendment regretting the absence of any recommendation for the creation of a Department and Minister of Labour. Mr. W. Crooks seconded. A majority for the amendment was defeated, with a majority for the Government of 80.—(Page 2.)

When the debate was resumed in the House of Lords the Duke of Devonshire explained the reasons which led him to resign office.—(Page 2.)

The Government has been informed by the National Union of Conservative Associations that the Liberals may gain sufficient seats at the next General Election to give them, with the Nationalists, a majority of 50.—(Page 11.)

The King arrived at Portsmouth yesterday, and in the course of the day inspected the submarine *U-21*.—(Page 4.)

Lady Granville Gordon and her child are in Paris, still obliged to keep outside British jurisdiction.—(Page 3.)

The success achieved by the *Daily Illustrated Mirror* encourages imitation. It is announced that London will shortly have another new daily illustrated journal at a price yet to be fixed.—(Page 11.)

The woman found on the railway at Kilburn with a throat cut has been identified, but the mystery of her death has yet to be solved.—(Page 15.)

"Hunting" methods came under notice at a Westminster inquest yesterday. It was said that an engineer's labourer had been worked continuously for twenty-five hours when he met with an accident that proved fatal.—(Page 6.)

A Liverpool Assizes a test case against the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company arising out of the recent Waterloo station was decided, the jury awarding in all the sum of £4,500 as damages. Stay of execution was applied for.—(Page 4.)

A Stoke-on-Trent magistrate said yesterday that the authorities were the worst business people in the kingdom.—(Page 3.)

At Edinburgh Court of Session Mr. Ian Forbes, a Glasgow tea manager, obtained a divorce from his wife, Kathleen Macdonald. It was stated that the wife and Mr. William Sinclair, co-respondent, desired to marry, the question of damages and costs having been arranged.—(Page 6.)

A new pattern Government rifle, recently submitted to various tests at Hythe, has proved to be an absolute failure. Half a million of money has been spent on manufacture and machinery before its worthlessness was discovered.—(Page 11.)

Fine weather attended the conclusion of the Winter Coursing Meeting. Homfray won the Spur Cup, Lonely Star and Prince Plausible the Plate Stakes, and Priestley and Mallory the Purse prize.—(Page 14.)

The second round of the Football Association Cup Ties will be decided to-day. London is visited with visits from two First League teams—Aldershot Villa meeting the Spur's at Tottenham, and Aston Villa playing a visit to the Arsenal at Whitechapel City.

At Woolwich the Plate Stakes, and Priestley and Mallory the Purse prize.—(Page 14.)

The racing which was carried on at Lingfield in glorious sunshine, was not of a very interesting nature, and fields were small.—(Page 14.)

Two hundred convicts who escaped from a penal settlement near Guayaquil, Ecuador, seized a schooner and put to sea, only to be recaptured on reaching Tumaco, Colombia. They will be shot.—(Page 6.)

At Southwark Police Court yesterday the employee of a man charged with receiving stolen property was himself arrested after he had arrived at the court, and brought before the magistrate.—(Page 6.)

At Northampton yesterday the boy Burrows, charged with the murder of his little sister, whom he attacked with an axe, was remanded. He has made a statement to the police.—(Page 4.)

The marriage of Miss Ellis Jeffreys, the well-known actress, to Mr. Herbert Sleath takes place today.—(Page 13.)

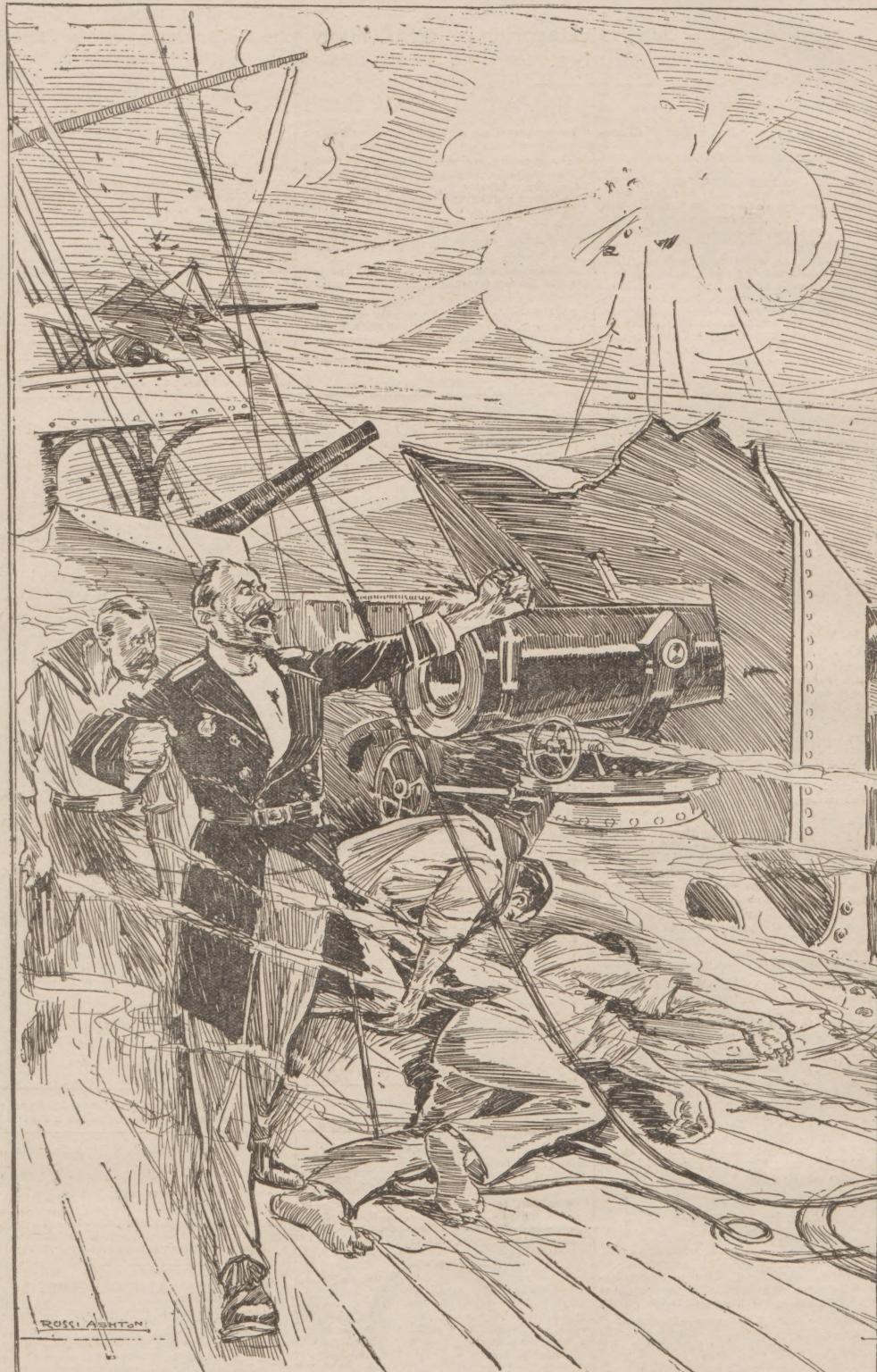
At yesterday's meeting of the Midland Railway Company, the chairman announced that the new route to Ireland would be ready for traffic before next August.—(Page 11.)

Statistics compiled for one of the largest benefit societies show that the average sickness at all ages is increasing. A well-known West End physician interviewed on behalf of the *Daily Illustrated Mirror* considers this the result of the physical degeneration of the people.—(Page 5.)

TO-DAY'S ARRANGEMENTS.

The Netherlands Minister presides at the Dutch Hotel Matroon, Sir John Moore, M.P., at Pontypool, Mr. Corridale (Anglo-French Association), "At Home," Lang's Arms and Hotel, 3:30 to 6 p.m. Mr. H. H. Aspinwall, "The Life and Work of Stokes," Royal Institution, 9.30 a.m. Mr. Charles Ambassader speaks at the Working Men's College, Great Ormond-street.

STORMED AT WITH SHOT AND SHELL.



The Russian cruiser *Variag*, which made such a brave stand against the Japs at Chemulpho, continued to hurl defiance at her enemies till long after the fight was hopeless. Five shells struck her in rapid succession, while the shrapnel swept the crews repeatedly from the guns.

THE LITTLE GORDON GIRL.

Mother and Child are at Present in Paris.

Incidental to the revival of the Granville Gordon case, adjourned for hearing in the Court of Appeal till Tuesday, public curiosity is again aroused as to the whereabouts of the little Gordon girl, Cicely, around whose small personality the romance of the sordid case turned.

When the mother snatched up her child and crossed with her to France to avoid the order of the Court that the girl should be delivered to Mr. Eric Gordon, Lord Granville Gordon stated that his wife had acted upon her own initiative, keeping her destination as her own secret.

Since that date, eleven months ago, Mr. Eric Gordon has been unable to regain possession of the girl, though armed with an order of the Court, which at the same time found his divorced wife, Lady Granville Gordon, guilty of contempt in refusing to surrender the child. Lady Granville Gordon and her child are at present in

Paris, where they have been for the greater part of the past year. While there, of course, the mother is not liable to arrest, contempt of court not being specified as a crime in the Extradition Treaty. If, however, Lady Granville Gordon should venture to re-cross the Channel she would be arrested immediately, and compelled to purge her contempt in prison. Nor would that exonerate her from liability to yield the child from Mr. Eric Gordon.

Neither Parent Will Yield.

It is believed that the mother longs to return to this country, and is only deterred by the fear of the consequences, especially as regards the loss of Cicely, to whom she is passionately attached. She constantly reiterates her inability to live without her.

On the other hand it is the fact that Mr. Eric Gordon insists upon his rights and yields nothing to the mother in the love he bears the little girl, whom he intends sooner or later to recover. In order to compel the surrender of the child in France it would be necessary to have the whole case tried there, and some uncertainty exists as to whether a French and an English court would arrive at the same decision.

MILITARY MUDDLERS.

Judge Comments on Officers Lack of Common-Sense.

Strong comments were made on War Office methods by the Stoke-on-Trent stipendiary magistrate yesterday during the hearing of a summons against Corporal John Hancock for being a deserter from the North Staffordshire Regiment, recently returned from India.

Police evidence showed that Hancock was very ill, and had sent a doctor's certificate from his home to the barracks explaining this. In response to an inquiry by the military authorities the police had visited Hancock and found that he was not fit to travel.

The stipendiary said it seemed to him that the military authorities acted very unfairly. They were about the worst business people one could find in the United Kingdom. He did not know who the officials in charge at the barracks were, but if there was any possibility of doing the wrong thing they generally managed to do it.

MUCH NEWS IN FEW WORDS.

Interesting and Curious Happenings from Many Sources.

Representatives of omnibus companies and others owning about 100,000 horses waited upon the Public Control Committee of the L.C.C. yesterday to call attention to the danger of glanders spreading among horses by the present system of public water troughs. Compensation for infected horses ordered to be slaughtered was asked for, the deputation stating that in fourteen years 20,000 horses had been so destroyed, involving a loss of £612,000. The committee intimated that they were communicating with the Local Government Board on the subject.

Return tickets on the Midland Railway for distances up to and including twenty miles will from July 1 be available for two days, and from Saturday to Monday. For distances exceeding twenty miles all tickets will be available for six months. Tourist tickets will also be available for six months, instead of two months as hitherto. The London and North-Western Railway have already announced similar concessions.

The Tariff Commission is inquiring from trade unions and similar associations: "Has the importation of foreign-made goods into British markets affected the conditions of employment in your trade?" "Has the influx of aliens affected the conditions of employment in your trade?" "Has any appreciable number of your members left this country in recent years? If so, why?"

Stepney Borough Council have at last accepted the offer of Cr. Mills, J.P., one of their body, to give a sum of £700 for the provision of private baths for the parish of Ratcliff. His larger offer of £4,000 for a swimming-bath hangs fire, owing to the difficulty in obtaining a site.

The number of pauper aliens in the East End on the rates is much smaller than expected. Returns published yesterday from the Local Government Board show that in the Poplar Union there are only 104 on the rates, and in the Stepney Union the number is less than fifty.

Henley-on-Thames is accepted by the Post Office telegraph department as one word, and Goring-on-Thames wants to know why it is charged as three. The answer is that Goring has no right to a qualifying description except as a local advertisement, which must be paid for.

Queen Emma of the Netherlands concluded her visit to Claremont yesterday evening and left for The Hague. The Duchess of Albany drove with her sister to Esher Station. The Prince and Princess of Waldeck-Pyrmont will remain at Claremont another fortnight.

As a warning to motorists using the Portsmouth Road that the police are on the look-out for too rapid drivers, a "dummy" policeman is exhibited near a certain Cobham hostelry, with the result—having a duplicate effect in some cases—that motorists slow up.

The Paris "Rappel" states that the German Government intends asking the Cabinet of St. James's for an explanation relative to the insurrection of the Herreros in German South-West African possessions, which it is alleged is due to the instigation of British emissaries.

To protest against the proposed reduction of the capitulation grant to mounted infantry for horse hire from £4 to £1, a deputation of Volunteers waited upon General Sir Alfred Turner yesterday. The latter promised to have the matter considered.

At the village of Vadeni, near the town of Botoshani, in Moldavia, a peasant woman named Anika Jonescu has given birth to four children, two boys and two girls, all of whom are alive and thriving.

The labourers employed at the new graving dock at Belfast, which will be the largest in the world, went out on strike yesterday on a demand for an increase of a penny per hour being refused. Over two hundred men are affected.

The Duchess of Albany will attend an elocutionary recital by Mr. Alfred Sawyer, of the Kensington Board of Guardians, on Thursday next at the Esher village hall, in aid of the Hostel of the Good Shepherd, Stamford-street.

The Queen of Württemberg has presented a gold and pearl scarfpin to Mr. J. A. Richardson, station-master at Esher, in appreciation of his courtesy to her Majesty during her recent visit to Claremont.

During the last official year the breweries of the United Kingdom paid £13,854,000 in dues to the Exchequer on a total of 36,685,000 barrels of beer produced.

Sir Thomas Dixon-Hartland, M.P., chairman of the Thames Conservancy, visited Windsor yesterday to see the flood-effects. The river has fallen from five feet above normal level to 8ft. 8in.

Mr. Conor O'Kelly, M.P., has been commissioned by the Irish members to proceed to America upon an organising mission on behalf of the Irish party and the United Irish League.

Yesterday Mr. David Wark, a member of the Canadian Senate, celebrated his hundredth birthday. Mr. Wark is a Liberal, and the oldest legislator in the world.

The Local Government Board has decided, in spite of public opposition, to sell the two smallpox hospital ships. It is urged they can never be effectively disinfected.

While talking to a friend yesterday, Canon Robert James Dundas, rector of Albury, near Guildford, had a sudden seizure, and died almost immediately.

The Kiel police are searching for a workman named Stoeffelkoff who has disappeared, after killing his four-year-old son with a shot which he aimed at his paramour.

In the cattle-market, Vienna, a day-labourer named Ochs (i.e., Ox) was suddenly attacked and gored by an ox. The sight of his left eye was entirely destroyed.

At Bow-street, Henri Jean Baptiste Barand and Lazaret Lenley, French subjects, were charged with an extradition warrant with stealing £5,000.

property of the employer of the female prisoner in Paris. When arrested the male prisoner replied, "I deny that I am a thief. Instead of being a thief, I was last night drugged by some Frenchmen, and robbed of a large sum of money."

An accident occurred at Ravenhead Colliery, in Lancashire, yesterday by which two men named John William Platt and Thomas Grundy were killed.

The Kaiser has sent a present of £15 to a widow named Acker, living in Alsace, who has just celebrated her hundredth birthday.

A British squadron of four battleships and four cruisers has been reported off Ushant and steaming west.

Lord Stalbridge presided yesterday at the half-yearly meeting of the London and North-Western Railway. The passenger traffic showed a net

"OUR BOBS."

Suggested National Testimonial to the Ex-Commander-in-Chief.

At the military clubs the greatest satisfaction is being expressed at the graceful and tactful royal proclamation on the retirement of Lord Roberts from the office of Commander-in-Chief.

The Army vies with the public in its unstinted admiration for "Our Bobs," and keenly resents the idea fostered in certain quarters that he had been slighted. The King, with happy thought, has spoken of the veteran general in words which find a ready echo everywhere, and the Army especially is proud of the honour done the foremost British soldier.

A Happy Suggestion.

To the Editor of the *Daily Illustrated Mirror*.

Would this not be a suitable time to start a national testimonial to our beloved General Lord Roberts, recently Commander-in-Chief?

Without recounting his former services, the way he saved the situation in South Africa is

LINER IN COLLISION.

Series of Mishaps to Liners and Steamers at Home and Abroad.

Several large vessels have been in trouble during the past few days.

During a thick fog off Dungeness yesterday morning the steamer Lake Michigan, of Liverpool, which left Halifax, Nova Scotia, on the 8th inst. for London, collided with the four-masted barque Matterhorn, of Liverpool. The Lake Michigan, which had cattle and general cargo on board, was badly damaged amidships, and water penetrated the engine-room and stokehole, and got to a portion of the cargo. She anchored in the West Bay, and subsequently, with the assistance of tugs, was beached. The bows of the Matterhorn were greatly damaged, and she was towed up channel.

Near the scene of this mishap the mail steamer Philippiville, of Havre, bound from Antwerp to Southampton, carrying a hundred passengers and a general cargo, ran aground about half-mile from the shore, and remained fast for about twelve

COMPANIONS IN ADVERSITY.



Two large steamers were in distress off Dungeness yesterday. The Lake Michigan came into collision with a sailing ship, and the Philippiville ran aground in a fog.

decrease of the value of £50,536, mostly due to tramway competition. Goods also were less by about the same sum, but this was directly attributable to slackness in the Lancashire cotton trade.

Mr. Chamberlain, in a letter to the President of the Industrial Exhibition at Toronto, says: "It was impossible to view the development of other Empires without anxiety if the different States of

so fresh in our memories, and so sufficient to endear him to us all.

The subscription might be limited to one shilling, that all could join in some small recognition of Lord Roberts' splendid career, his lovable qualities, and his inestimable services to the British Empire.

G. T. JONES.
Elm Cottage, Brixton-hill, S.W., Feb. 17.

THE KING AT PORTSMOUTH.

His Majesty left Victoria yesterday morning at 11.35 on his visit to the premier war port, arriving at 1.40. No ceremony was observed, the King being driven from Buckingham Palace in a closed brougham, preceded by a mounted police patrol.

Upon arriving at Portsmouth the King was received by Admiral Sir John Fisher and other naval officers. His Majesty lunched at Admiralty House, and subsequently visited the cruiser flotilla. From the deck of the cruiser Thames he saw evolutions with submarines, these vessels being made to dive as in actual service. Their construction was fully explained to the King, who carefully inspected a "periscope," which is the eye of the submarine when under water.

After spending nearly an hour with the submarines the royal party steamed down the harbour to the Victoria, which had recently returned to her old moorings after having the damage caused by collision with the Neptune last November repaired.

On the upper deck, the boys of the signal school were paraded for inspection. Under the direction of Commander Douglas Nicholson, superintendent of signal schools, the lads carried out semaphore drill with flags and also with their arms.

MURDER CHARGE AGAINST A BOY.

At Northampton Police Court yesterday George Scott Burrows, aged fifteen, described as a shoehand, was charged with the murder of his sister Elsie, aged eleven, by striking her on the head with an axe on Wednesday night.

Only formal evidence was given, and the boy was remanded until Tuesday next. It is thought that he is insane.

He made a statement to the police at Kettering, but this has not yet been made public.

hours. Tugs then got her off, and she proceeded westward under her own steam, apparently un-damaged.

The Hamburg-American liner Pallanca has reached Halifax after a tempestuous voyage from Hamburg, during which fire broke out on board and the steward was nearly killed by repeated heavy seas striking him. Her smoke-stack was carried away, and the vessel had to divert 400 miles to the Azores for repairs. During the height of the third storm encountered by the vessel on the voyage, fire broke out in the forward hatch, and was only extinguished after eight hours' arduous fighting. There were a number of emigrants on board, and for a time they were seriously alarmed.

The Anchor Line steamer Persia put into Port Said, fire, but the outbreak is being subdued.

The German passenger steamer Deutschland, founded near Saigon, but no lives were lost. New Zealand steamer Lillian, of New Zealand, ran ashore and was wrecked. The crew of twelve were rescued by the Seaham lifeboat.

The barge Newham is reported to have gone down, and the crew, David Webb and Fred Thomas, of the Hoo, St. Merburgh, near Rochester, drowned.

The Sunderland steamer, which was towed into Corunna after having been ashore, has sunk in harbour.

HEAVY ACCIDENT DAMAGES.

An important test case, arising out of the recent Waterloo Station disaster, was decided at Liverpool Assizes yesterday against the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company. The widow of George Newstead, an official who was fatally injured, raised £2,000 for damages. Mrs. Newstead also claimed damages for personal injuries. Plaintiffs claimed that the train was travelling at an excessive speed and the men were killed.

The jury found for plaintiffs, awarding £3,750 to widow and £250 to her son, together with £500 in respect of the widow's injuries.

A number of actions depend on the case. The defendants' counsel asked for a stay of execution and Mr. Justice Jefford deferred consideration.



THE NEW LORD ALINGTON.
He is forty-four years old, and a keen politician.
Lady Alington is one of Society's noted beauties.
(Photo—Russell & Sons.)

the British Empire stood isolated one from the other. If, however, there was a real union on some lines of elastic organisation the British Empire would be the strongest and most prosperous in the world."

Two men, crew of the barge Newham, of Rochester, have perished in the recent gale.

The Bishop of Winchester, who has been suffering from appendicitis, is recovering.

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of Havre, bound from Antwerp to
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BLESSING PORT ARTHUR'S NEW ADMIRAL.



Before Admiral Makarov left St. Petersburg to supersede Admiral Starck at Port Arthur he received the Sacrament from Father John at the Church of St. Andrew. "They want men, so I am going," said the Admiral, after the solemn service.

IS ENGLAND SICKLY?

Civilisation Tends to Physical
Deterioration of the Race.

Statistics compiled for the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows show that the average sickness at all ages is increasing.

A representative of the *Daily Illustrated Mirror* has interviewed the secretaries of some friendly societies issuing sick policies.

The secretary of one said that the claims which they have been called upon to pay this last twelve months have been exceedingly heavy, and the number has been steadily increasing. The only parallel was during the great epidemic of influenza some ten or twelve years ago.

In his opinion the absence of sunshine has had a bad effect upon the people.

"In these dull, gloomy, damp days," he said, "people become de-

spondent, and fancy they are ill; they no sooner

sunshine than they really do become ill. In the

days people do not take such a gloomy view

of affairs, and we have consequently less claims to

accident damages.

ant test case, arising out of the recent disaster, was decided at the Lancashire Assizes. The defendant was the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company. The widow of George Newstead, a Lloyds agent, was fatally injured, raised on a personal injury claim. Plaintiff's attorney was travelling at an excessive speed and was dangerous. The court awarded £250 to the widow, together with £200 for expenses. The amount of actions depended on the case. The counsel asked for a stay of execution. The defendant considered.

in the number of fever patients established Asylums Board to make a reduction of a penny in its rate.

past ten years show an enormous increase. Certainly the membership of our society has been increasing steadily, but not proportionately with the increase of the number of members on the sick list."

It must not, however, be concluded that the increase of sickness amongst the members of the friendly societies is any index of the general state of the health of the nation. It is pretty obvious that the great majority of people who join these societies are not all of a robust type of manhood. The majority of them are infirm or sickly. They join the society for the ostensible purpose of receiving free medical services and a weekly allowance when they are prevented from following their occupations.

A well-known West End physician expressed the opinion that the great increase in sickness was due to the physical degeneration of the people. "If people would only go in more for athletic exercise of any description," he stated, "there would be fewer doctors amongst us and less sickness."

Can You Lift Your Wife?

He also thought the cause of increase in illness to-day was to a great extent due to our being too civilised. "If a man were allowed to fight out his differences with his fellow creatures, as they used to do in the olden times, by his own physical superiority, we should have a better race of people. The fact of having to defend ourselves, without the aid of the police court would be sufficient in itself to induce physical development.

"In my opinion, every man should be able to lift his wife shoulder-high without any effort, and if a man can perform this feat his children will probably be robust, strong, and healthy.

"Until people develop a taste for athletic exercise and more physical culture," he concluded, "this state of sickness and perpetual ailing will certainly continue. It is ridiculous to attribute the present abnormal sick population to the bad weather. Beyond a few colds and bronchial coughs, doctors are very slack in comparison to the number of patients we have on our books during the drier months of the year."

A benefit society in the East End, which has over 6,000 names on their books, found that the number of sick claims were increasing so rapidly that they decided to pay the members on the sick list a certain sum during the first six months, decreasing the amount by half for the next three months, and so on, until the amount again for the last quarter of a year. When members had been on the sick list for a period of twelve months they could not obtain any further benefits from the society for a period of five years, during which time they were put down as "dead" members.

The secretary of another well-known friendly society also deplored the great increase in the number of sick members.

"The figures for the

WOMEN'S SECRET DRINKING.

Confectioners who Sell More Whisky and Soda than Tea.

Is the pernicious drinking habit increasing amongst middle-class Englishwomen? From the police courts we have, unfortunately, evidence that the evil is spreading among the poorer classes of women, and there is an impression that certain of the upper classes are also giving way to it. But hitherto it has not been suggested that the middle-class Englishwoman has been tainted by the vice.

There are to be found in many parts of England, Scotland, and Ireland, says the "Confectioners' Union," many confectioners and pastrycooks with drink licences. Many of them undoubtedly are above suspicion; not a few, however, are manifest evils. They entice women to drink—yea, even more than the gilded saloons of the publican.

Investigation shows that at least part of this statement is only too terribly true. There are many such establishments in nearly every part of London, in the City and in the suburbs, from Stratford to Kensington, from Holloway to Balham. Chiefly they are to be found close by the big drapery establishments. Apparently after the fatigues of shopping the ladies want a more effective pick-me-up than tea, and they are flying to various forms of alcohol. Visits to certain of these shops show that hundreds and hundreds of women go to them for a piece of pastry or two or three biscuits, and more than one glass of wine or whisky or beer.

Some doctors declare that whisky and soda is a less harmful stimulant than strong tea, and few of us wish to deny women alcohol if they think fit to drink it in moderation.

But such establishments as these thrust a terrible temptation before our wives and sisters. They are to all appearances innocent tea-shops. In most cases

the notice that wine and spirits are sold is written in very small letters on the shop fronts. Hence women who would not dream of going into a public-house or wine bar have no hesitation in patronising them, and many may, and do, cultivate that vice which leads to such terrible consequences.

WOMAN PROPOSES, MAN PAYS.

If the unmarried woman does not seize one of the many opportunities arranged for her at the coming leap-year social functions she will only have herself to blame.

The leap-year entertainments will lead off, as is only fitting, by a great carnival ball at the Empress Rooms on February 29. It is a Lenten ball, but the committee have found two very good excuses for holding it. One, that February 29 is an odd day, and the other, that charity claims the money results for the Dumb Friends' League, a praiseworthy institution under royal patronage.

Wondrous fancy dresses are being made for this ball, and the committee offers prizes for the most original lady's dress, for a man's costume, and for the best two cake-walk dancers.

Many girls will wear masks and dominoes further to confuse the poor men, who, by the same token, have not been a bit shy about asking for tickets.

Dancers will be expected to keep all the best-known leap-year rules, and any other regulations invented on the spur of the moment by the fair for the total subjection of the brave. These will probably include "You must allow me the pleasure of taking you into supper, and I will allow you the pleasure of paying the bill, including champagne."

For the benefit of any fascinating young man who finds himself unwilling to fulfil his all too numerous engagements it may be well to remind him that a silk petticoat is the only penalty for refusal.

It is always the man who pays—in leap-year

YESTERDAY'S LAW AND POLICE.

SYMPATHETIC WHISTLING.

How a Good-looking Theological Student Disturbed Domestic Tranquillity.

Should theological students whistle outside the houses of married ladies?

Ought theological students to kiss married ladies, even when the married ladies are old enough to be their mothers, and are actually called "mother" by the theological students?

Is there any excuse for a theological student to put his arm round the waist of a young unmarried lady when he really likes her sister better?

These and other questions equally delicate were raised in Mr. Justice Wills's Court yesterday during the hearing of an action for libel brought against a Mr. Wilkins, of Croydon, by Mr. Arthur Bertram Lucy, who is a theological student.

Mr. Lucy is only nineteen years of age. In fact, he has but recently completed his schooling at Marlborough College. In pursuance of his determination to become a curate he, in 1902, went to live at Croydon to "coach" in theology, and, as it turned out, to acquire that gallant bearing towards the fair sex that so becomes curates.

At Croydon he made the acquaintance of a very nice family—at least, Mr. Lucy found the ladies of the family very nice. Being introduced to Mrs. Wilkins and her two charming daughters, May and Cicely, Mr. Lucy spent a great deal of his time at the Wilkins' house.

Chicken-pox and Kisses.

His lodgings were but seven doors away, and when he had the chicken-pox Mrs. Wilkins wanted to come and nurse him.

Mr. Wilkins did not like young Mr. Lucy nearly as much as Mrs. Wilkins and the girls did. The master of the house warned him not to be so attentive to Mrs. Wilkins, and not to kiss her. Mr. Wilkins also warned him that he must not kiss and cuddle May, as Mr. Wilkins once found him doing.

So the relations between Mr. Wilkins and Mr. Lucy were a little strained when, after the chicken-pox, the latter determined to take a voyage to the West Indies.

Before going, however, Mr. Lucy escorted Mrs. Wilkins to a concert. While escorting her back to her residence he took her for a few minutes to his own lodgings to see his landlady.

To his great surprise the next morning he received a hastily-scribbled note from Mrs. Wilkins. The note began: "Oh, Arthur, what trouble I am unintentionally giving you." Then it went on to say that Mr. Wilkins had written to Mr. Lucy senior at Malvern, and it asked Mr. Lucy junior to go home and intercept the communication.

The note was signed, "Yours in distress, E. F. W."

Mr. Lucy at once asked Mr. Wilkins what he had written, and found that that gentleman had complained about Mr. Lucy's methods of studying theology, and had appealed to parental authority to keep him from Mrs. Wilkins.

A month afterwards Mr. Wilkins again wrote to Mr. Lucy senior. This time it was to say that he had had to insist on his wife's leaving the house.

* These letters Mr. Lucy, the theological student, considered to reflect on his character, and that is why he is paying his present visit to the Law Courts, claiming damages for libel.

An Attractive Plaintiff.

When Mr. Lucy went into the witness-box everybody in court—and there were many ladies in the audience—said "What a handsome, young theological student!" Mr. Lucy stands six feet high, and combines the advantages of an ingenuous, frank manner with comely rosy cheeks.

He looks as if he had in the immediate past performed doughty deeds both on the playing fields of Marlborough and in the Marlborough tuck-shop.

It seemed a pity that Dr. Blake Odgers, K.C., should find it necessary to adopt such stern tones as he did in cross-examining such a nice-looking, bashful, ingenuous boy.

Mr. Lucy admitted without hesitation that he had kissed and fondled May, and that Mr. Wilkins had objected thereto.

Dr. Odgers: Did you promise never to let it occur again?

Mr. Lucy: Not altogether. (Sympathetic laughter.)

Dr. Odgers: Was there love-making afterwards between you and May, and did you occasionally kiss her?

Mr. Lucy: Yes. (Very sympathetic laughter.)

Mr. Lucy then added that when he kissed May he told her that his promise only referred to Cicely. He was not going to kiss Cicely any more.

"Did you write to May beginning 'My dearest May?'" pursued Dr. Odgers very sternly.

"I may have done so," replied Mr. Lucy, "but I afterwards found that I liked Cicely better."

Mr. Lucy's delightful candour sent the Court into roars of laughter, and there was more laughter when he admitted that he wrote to Cicely as "My Dearest Baby," and got his landlady to take the letter to her concealed in a book.

But everybody felt very shocked at what Mr. Lucy went on to admit. He said that he stood outside the Wilkins' house and whistled, and that Mrs. Wilkins came to the door and opened it.

The whistling did not stop here, and it was not only Mr. Lucy who whistled. In riding her bicycle along the street Mrs. Wilkins used to pass under Mr. Lucy's bedroom window. When she passed she, too, whistled! Then Mr. Lucy went to his bedroom window and wave his hand.

T. & Landlady's Threat.

So shocked was his landlady by this whistling that she told Mr. Lucy that if Mrs. Wilkins persisted in whistling to him she (the landlady) would have to put him into the back-beds.

To one question of Dr. Odgers' Mr. Lucy was able to give a denial. He did not remember telling his landlady's servant, when Mrs. Wilkins called on him during the chicken-pox, "to keep that devil of a woman out of my bedroom."

Mr. Lucy was still in the throes of cross-examination when the Court adjourned until Tuesday.

"HUSTLING" METHODS.

Terrible Death of a Labourer who Worked Continuously for 25 Hours.

In the Westminster Coroner's Court yesterday Mr. John Troutbeck held an inquest touching the death of Henry Seirs, aged forty-one, an engineer's labourer in the employ of Blake and Knowles, an American firm of steam-pump engineers, Queen Victoria-street. Seirs met with a fatal accident while at work at Artillery-mansions, Victoria-street, Westminster.

Stanley Gain, a fitter, said he and Seirs were engaged in fixing stays across a pipe leading into a well. The depth of the well was about 140 feet. Last Tuesday morning deceased was descending a ladder into the well, and was about to step off the ladder on to a landing, about fourteen feet below the surface, when he made a false step and fell through the manhole. The body was caught by a girder at a depth of about 100 feet.

The foreman stated in evidence, in reply to questions by a solicitor who represented the widow, that

MARRIAGE FOLLOWS DIVORCE.

The Co-respondent met Petitioner in the Football Field.

Sitting yesterday in the Court of Session, Edinburgh, Lord Low heard an action for divorce brought by Mr. Ian Forbes, a tea estate manager of Ceylon, against his wife, Katherine MacDonald Forbes, of Chorley Wood, Herts. Mr. William Sinclair, living at a club in Piccadilly, being cited as co-respondent. It was stated that the question of damages and costs had been arranged.

Evidence was called to show that Mrs. Forbes and a gentleman other than the petitioner took rooms at a house in Castle-street, Regent-street, London. The gentleman slept there one night.

The petitioner said he was thirty years of age, and was the son of the late Colonel Forbes of the 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders. He became acquainted with the co-respondent in Ceylon, through belonging to the same football team. The petitioner's wife went home to England in a sea boat as the co-respondent. He subsequently had a letter from his wife making a cer-

COSTLY POSTCARD CRAZE.

Well-known Orchestra Conductor Awarded £100 Damages for Libel.

"Would that my enemy would not write postcards," has been the prayer of Mr. Edmund Bosanquet, the well-known violinist and orchestra conductor, for thirteen years.

In the year 1891 Mr. Bosanquet had a dispute with his landlord, Mr. Solomon Abrahams, a diamond dealer, about the rent of a house in Albert-square.

Mr. Bosanquet had to leave the house because of the drains and because he was about to have typhoid fever, and he refused on this account to pay a quarter's rent, £12 10s.

Ever since 1891 this £12 10s. has been a ceaseless cause and endless theme of correspondence addressed to him by Mr. Abrahams.

The correspondence at first took the shape of letters, and then, as Mr. Abrahams himself threatened it would do in the last letter he wrote, it degenerated into postcards.

Mr. Bosanquet received postcards at Edinburgh, where he was orchestra leader at Moss's Empire, and he received postcards at Blackpool, where he was professionally engaged at the Alhambra. He received postcards in Liverpool, and he received postcards at Bath.

The postcards all conveyed one message, with slight variations, "Pay me that £12 10s. or I will summons you." Yet the summons never came.

Mr. Abrahams Went Too Far.

But at last Mr. Abrahams went a little too far. He added to one of his appeals the words, "You went away four days before your quarter's rent was due to avoid paying."

And so, on account of the last three words, Mr. Bosanquet was enabled to sue Mr. Abrahams yesterday for libel.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Bosanquet gave evidence. The great orchestra leader wears his hair powdered back, and sometimes has a strenuous manner. He was very strenuous when he denied that he had seen Mr. Abrahams driving in Wellington-street, and that, when Mr. Abrahams got down to talk to him, he, Mr. Bosanquet, ran away.

"Me run away from him!" he cried; "gracious me! No! I never ran away from Mr. Abrahams!"

Mrs. Bosanquet also referred in indignant terms to an occasion when Mr. Abrahams had asked her daughters for the £12 10s. at the Tivoli Music Hall. When Mr. Bosanquet was lying ill, she added, Mr. Abrahams came outside his new house and shouted, "Thief!"

The jury asked Mr. Abrahams to pay Mr. Bosanquet £100, which, added to the cost of stamps, will make the former gentleman's postcard correspondence to the latter very expensive.

ESCAPED CONVICTS PUT TO SEA.

From Guayaquil, Ecuador, comes an extraordinary story of a mutiny of convicts in Galapagos Islands, a penal settlement.

A party of 200 convicts, headed by a German named Hansen, overpowered the warders and attacked and killed the Governor.

The rebels then took a schooner and put to sea. They eventually reached Tumaco (Colombia) where they were captured.

They will be handed to the authorities of Ecuador, and it is expected, says a Central News telegram, that they will be shot.

THE PRISONER'S OFFER.

Yesterday, at Bow-street, Arthur C. Collins, a Peckham porter, was committed for trial charged with burglary at the Nurses' Hostel Company, Francis-street, Tottenham Court-road, where he was formerly employed.

Prisoner said he would not have taken a party from anyone had he been sober. He was quite willing to work in the hostel yard as payment for the damage he had done.

THE BRIEF BAG.

Mr. Justice Joyce yesterday reserved judgment in the actions against Lord E. Pelham Clinton and the Hon. S. J. G. Calthorpe to recover damages for alleged misstatements in the prospectus of the Standard Exploration Company, Ltd., of which they were directors.

George Craven, sixty-one, a jeweller, of St. Mary-street, Islington, committed suicide by taking cyanide of potassium. At the time of the Whitaker Wright tragedy he remarked to a friend on "the beautiful death" the financier had died, and that he (deceased) had enough poison in his place to kill fifty people.

Mr. Dickenson, at the Thames Court yesterday, said it was a great misfortune that the age sixteen was the limit of sending lads to prison. He and he hoped that the Legislature would come to some time or other consider the age of admission into such institutions.

A young man of good appearance, who gave the name of George Thomas, but refused his address, was fined five shillings at Marylebone yesterday for being drunk and disorderly. About noon on Thursday a policeman found him sitting in a drunken condition on the box of a hansom cab, while the driver was holding the horse's head to prevent Thomas driving away.

At Greenwich yesterday the summonses against a sergeant and two constables of the R. Division for perjury were again adjourned. On the last occasion the plaintiff, Taylor, a bookmaker, said he did not know who was prosecuting, but it was explained by Mr. L. Davies, solicitor, that Taylor instructed him to proceed in the matter.

In the High Court yesterday, Mr. R. D. M. Plowden said he did not think the evidence was enough to convict. Accused's method was certainly original if it was his intention to pick pockets, but he (the magistrate) did not take that view. Prisoner was accordingly discharged.



Mr. C. Bertie Marriot, whose counsel in the Paris courts says that he was trapped into a madhouse and kept for eight fearful weeks in rigorous confinement. He is the son of a former embassy chaplain and was a war correspondent in the Franco-German war.

Seirs started work at eight o'clock on Monday morning, and had been working continuously up to the time of the accident—a space of twenty-five and a half hours—with only intervals for meals. It was a breakdown job, and they had to hurry with the work. It was not unusual for men to work long hours on such jobs.

The coroner referred to the long hours worked by Seirs, and said this seemed to him to be an example of hustling that ought not to be followed.

The foreman was recalled, and stated that Seirs had been out of work for some time, and seemed anxious to keep on with the job. He voluntarily descended the well in place of another man.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and expressed the opinion that in such dangerous work more skilled labour should be employed.

SURPRISING DEVELOPMENT.

At Southwark Police Court, yesterday, John Hinge, labourer, was charged on remand with the theft of a quantity of stereo, in respect of which Alfred Watts, another labourer, was accused of receiving. Both pleaded guilty.

Mr. George Elliott, solicitor, said that his employer had instructed him to make an appeal on behalf of Watts.

Inspector Reed: We have arrested the employer. Mr. Elliott (surprised): I thought he was here to speak to Watts's character.

The Inspector: He is here; we have brought him.

Hinge was ordered twenty-one days' and Watts two months' hard labour.

Subsequently, George Robert Hardinge, forty, marine store dealer, who had employed Watts, was placed in the dock upon five charges of stealing and receiving, and remanded, ball being allowed.

OBJECTING TO A BACK SEAT.

Lydia Denison of Paul-street, Finsbury-square, was at Clerkenwell yesterday charged for assaulting Samuel Mallard, churchwarden at the Catholic Apostolic Church, Duncan-street, Islington.

It was alleged that defendant when attending a service forced her way to the front of the congregation. Efforts to persuade her to take a back seat resulted in complainant being struck. In a letter to a solicitor, defendant wrote that she was "inspired" to commit the assault and later to apologize.

The case was adjourned.

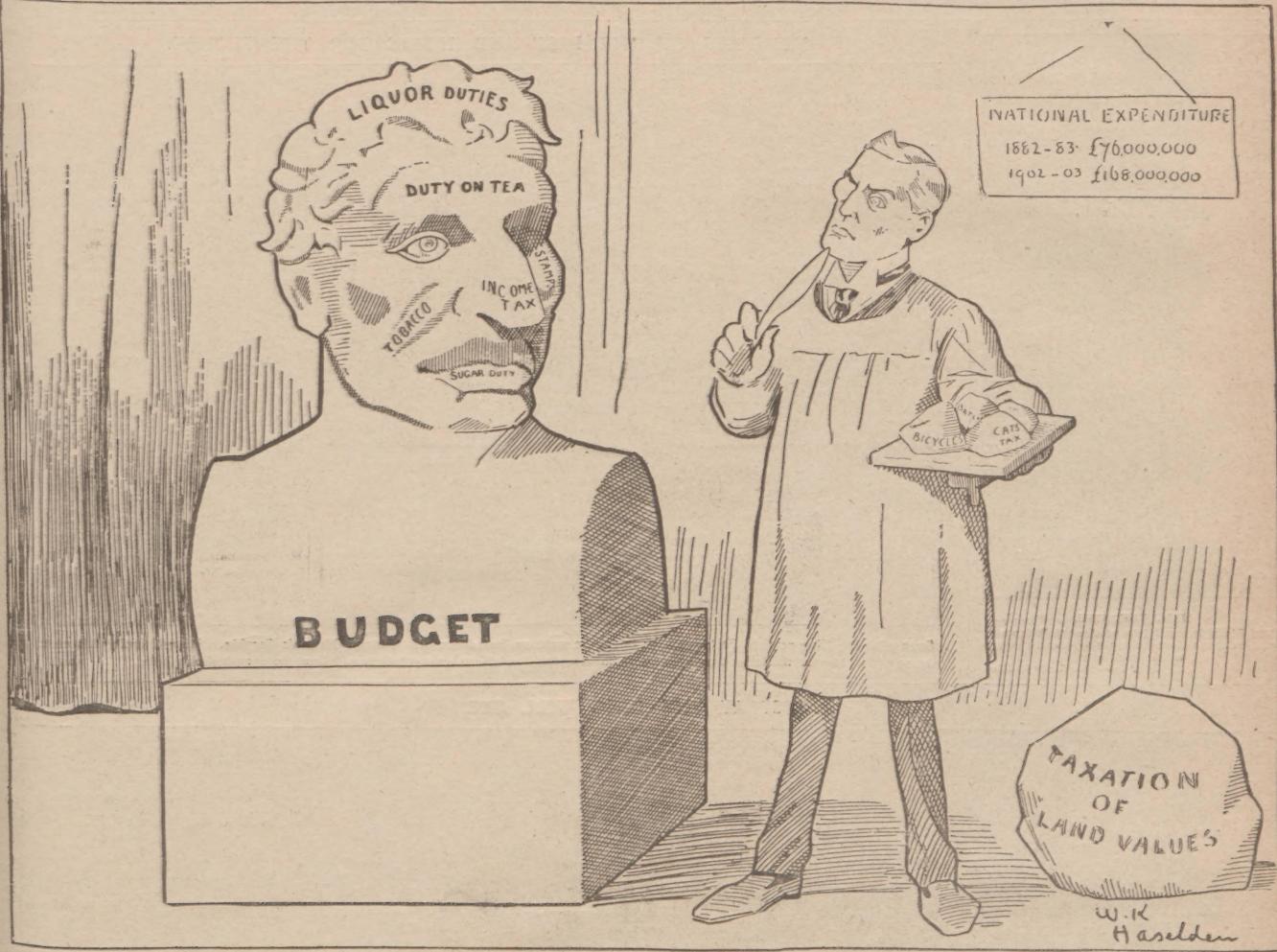
WHY A PORTER WAS SUSPECTED.

At Marylebone Police Court yesterday, Rowland Boston, nineteen, a L. and N.W. Railway porter, was charged with suspicious conduct at Euston Station.

Evidence given suggested that the prisoner was seen to act strangely. He was observed with his back against ladies and feeling in the folds of their dresses, but was not seen to take anything from the pockets. The prisoner stood in the dock with his right arm behind him, a position which the magistrate remarked upon.

Mr. Plowden said he did not think the evidence was enough to convict. Accused's method was certainly original if it was his intention to pick pockets, but he (the magistrate) did not take that view. Prisoner was accordingly discharged.

THE BUDGET-MAKER'S PROBLEM.



Mr. Austen Chamberlain will find it difficult to make his first Budget a popular one. Although there are several features of taxation which are felt to be too large, it would puzzle even an experienced Chancellor of the Exchequer to see how they can be reduced, unless, indeed, fresh taxes could be introduced.

AMUSEMENTS.

HAYMARKET. TO-DAY at 3 and 9. *SCROOGE ENTANGLED*. Presented at 2.30 and 8.20 by THE WIDOW WOODS. MATINEE EVERY WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY. 2.30.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE. MR. TREE. TO-DAY at 2.35, and EVERY EVENING at 8.15.

THE DARLING OF THE GODS.

By David Belasco and John Luther Long. MATINEE EVERY WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY. 2.15. Box Office (Mr. Watts) open daily 10 to 10.

IMPERIAL THEATRE, WESTMINSTER.

Losses and Manager, Mr. LEWIS WALLER. TO-DAY at 4.30, in *THE LAST EDITION* and *THE BIM*, entitled A Version of *WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN*. By John Davidson.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.

By John Davidson. MR. LEWIS WALLER. *The Unseen Spectre*. By J. K. CAP-POLI. MATINEE TO-DAY and EVERY SATURDAY. 2.30. Box Office open 10 to 10. Tel. 3192. Gerrard.

ST. JAMES'S. MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER. Will appear TO-DAY at 2.15, and TO-NIGHT at 8.30, in *OLD HAGGARD*. (200th PERFORMANCE, MONDAY NEXT.) MATINEE EVERY WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY. 2.15.

THE AUTOMOBILE SHOW.

CRYSTAL PALACE. DAILY TILL FEBRUARY 24.

ADMISSION ONE SHILLING. WEDNESDAYS. 2s. 6d.

A SUPERB EXHIBITION OF THE FINEST CARS, BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

THE AUTOMOBILE SHOW, CRYSTAL PALACE. DAILY TILL FEBRUARY 24. REPRESENTATIVE EXHIBITION OF THE YEAR. EVERY WELL-KNOWN MAKE OF

MOTOR CARS, MOTOR LORRIES

MOTORS FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES. MOTOR BOATS. MOTOR ACCESSORIES.

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THE AUTOMOBILE SHOW, CRYSTAL PALACE. DAILY TILL FEBRUARY 24. ADMISSION ONE SHILLING. WEDNESDAYS. 2s. 6d.

ROYAL STIRLING BUFFET TYPES. STAND 96, CRYSTAL PALACE SHOW. Tyres exhibited which gained non-stop record and won over 16,000 miles. Free trials on cars at Show.

WANTED, yearly volumes of "Weekly Dispatch" from 1860 to 1826; also for 1862-70-71; send particulars to Illustrated Mirror Office, 2, Carmelite Street, E.C.

PERSONAL.

The Daily Illustrated Mirror.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1904.

GUARANTEED DAILY CIRCULATION EXCEEDS 120,000 COPIES.

IS BRITAIN READY?

After wasting time over it for the best part of three weeks the House of Commons has at last disposed of the Address to the King to reply to his Speech at the opening of Parliament. This will now take the form merely of respectful thanks. If the Opposition could have carried any of their motions disapproving of the Government, then the Government would have resigned. But everybody knew beforehand that none of these motions could be carried, and the only result of the three weeks devoted to long and dull speeches is to show that the Prime Minister can only count upon a majority of about fifty (excluding the Irish members) instead of the majority of over a hundred which he had before the fiscal question came to the front.

Surely this could have been discovered in a less time than three weeks! Surely it would be possible to alter the rules of the House of Commons so as to make it an assembly for doing the business of the nation and not merely a resort for windbags, which it is most of the time under the present system. Members of Parliament are very much annoyed when people talk about the decadence and impotence of the popular Assembly. But what more complete proof of the futility of its proceedings could be given? It met on February 2 to do business, and it will not actually get to business until February 22. The interval has been filled up with nothing but "words, words, words."

It is not as if Great Britain were entirely free from anxieties and could afford to let her Parliamentary representatives amuse themselves by putting stale arguments into bad

English at enormous length. We are living in critical times—times which call for men of action, not for windbags. Even at this moment the might of a nation, governed as ours is in reality, by a small and incompetent caste, is being broken up by a Power which appreciates the value of efficiency. Our turn to fight for our life may come at any moment. Yet, instead of making sure that we are prepared at every point for any possible attack, the House of Commons goes droneing on, rapidly descending to the level of that curious relic of antiquity, the House of Lords.

There is little doubt that some effort will be made by Russia's friends to help her out of the hole she has got into. And there seems now to be at least a possibility that the rulers of China may think it to their advantage to plunge into the struggle with the view of dragging others after them. In either event Britain ought to have her plan of action ready. Nobody in his senses, either in this country or across the Channel, can view with anything but horror the prospect of France and England coming to blows in a quarrel not their own. But that is no reason for shirking the possibilities of the situation. The more ready we are for war, and the firmer the attitude we take up, the less likelihood is there of our being obliged to break the peace.

BREAKFAST TABLE TALK.

The Torpids at Oxford have opened satisfactorily despite the state of the river. It is, however, under consideration to change the name of the event to the Rapids.

A City tradesman has just invented "turtle soap" made from the superfluous green fat of the turtle. Like the civic port, it is matchless for the complexion.

Lord Lansdowne, as the late Lord Salisbury explained, was appointed Foreign Minister because he knew French so well. His knowledge of Latin also appears to be large. In a letter he has sent to a correspondent, who asked whether coal was contraband of war, he says: "Coal is an article *ancipitus usus*, not *per se* contraband of war." He also remarks that "whether in any particular case coal is

or is not contraband of war is a matter prima facie for the determination of the Prize Courts of the captors' nationality." If Lord Lansdowne's command of foreign tongues makes it difficult for him to use his own he ought to get his letters translated into English before they leave the Foreign Office.

According to a weekly paper wrestling is now quite a fashionable craze, and is indulged at "At Homes" and tea-parties.

Oh, I never shall forget—
Anyway, I haven't yet—
What occurred at Mrs. Thompson's wrestling party?

For a dislocated knee
Makes it rather dull for me,
Who was once extremely vigorous and hearty.

I was pitted against Jones,
Who scales out at sixteen stones,
Though it's not so much his weight at which I grumble;

But his temper's rather short,
And his one idea of sport
Is a regular old-fashioned rough-and-tumble.

When he knocked the table down,
Through the medium of my crown,
Well, my mind was full of thoughts I couldn't utter;

Still I had him surely, though,
And I might have scored a throw,
But I slipped upon a slice of bread-and-butter.

When I landed with a flop
My opponent was on top,
And I found the situation rather trying;

For a spirit lamp affame
Had a sort of prior claim
To the spot on which I happened to be lying.

So when he and I arose,
It was just as bitter foes,
For a knee and lifelong friendship had been broken;

And the Thompsons wrote to say
For the damage I must pay,
Which I did, and—well, since then we haven't spoken!

The Canadian Government is taxing the export of frogs' legs from the Dominion on the ground that they are "poultry." One is reminded of the railway porter's dictum on the tortoise, "Cats are dogs and parrots are dogs, but this 'ere is a hinsent and 'e travels free."

According to a French paper Russia will in less than a fortnight have 400,000 men in Manchuria. According to the Russian story there were over three-fourths of that number in Manchuria before the war broke out. That, of course, was only a paper army; the 400,000 is a newspaper army, that is the difference.

THE GUARANTEED CIRCULATION OF "THE DAILY ILL."

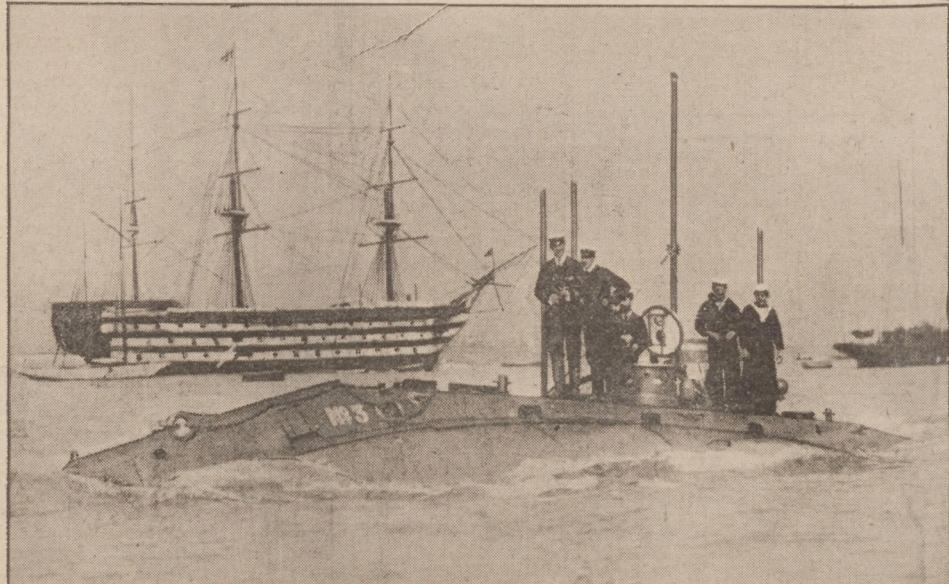
MEMORIES OF THE PAST AND HOPES FOR THE FUTURE.



H.M. THE KING.

King Edward is spending the week-end at Portsmouth. Our photograph shows him in the uniform of the Navy so dear to his heart.

[Photo by Hughes & Mullins.]



Soon after the King reached Portsmouth yesterday he went on board the old Victory, Nelson's flagship. He will during his visit inspect the latest developments in the construction of our new submarines. Our photograph shows both.

[Cribb.]

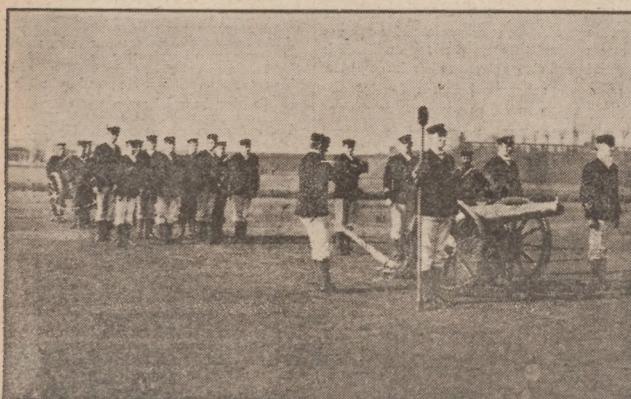
A DISPLAY THE KING WILL SEE.



Our sailors can fight on land as well as they can on sea. Here they are seen at gun drill on Whale Island, where they will be inspected by the King on Monday. The men are lying flat on the ground while the guns are fired.

[Gregory.]

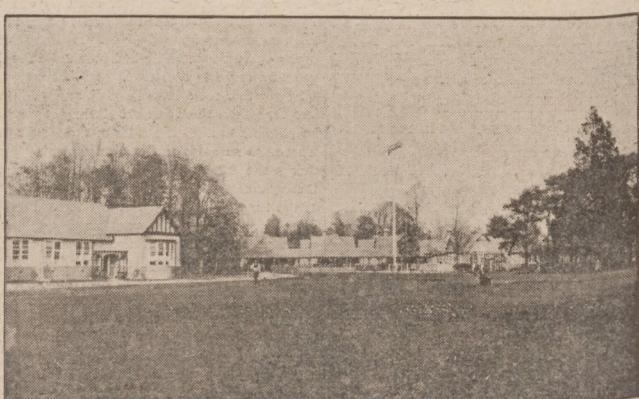
TEACHING THE YOUNG IDEA.



In the Navy the officers have to know as much about the work as the tars themselves. Photo] This picture shows a squad of sub-lieutenants at gun drill.

[Gregory.]

A SCHOOL FOR NELSONS.



The new college for naval officers at Osborne, which will be inspected by the King to-day. These are the captains' quarters.

[Cribb.]

ILLUSTRATED MIRROR" EXCEEDS 120,000 COPIES PER DAY.

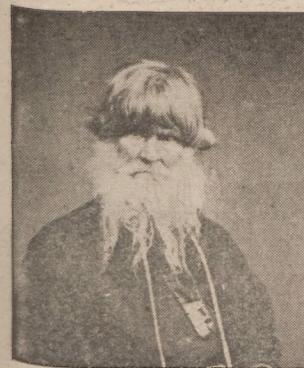
VLADIVOSTOK HARBOUR IN WINTER.



The Metropolitan of St. Petersburg, like a new "Peter the Hermit," has denounced the Japanese as "Infidel Pagans," and has sent the Tsar a sacred ikon to ensure victory.



This is the winter dress of the fierce Cossacks who form the Tsar's cavalry in the Far East. In spite of their heavy cloaks they are suffering from the cold.

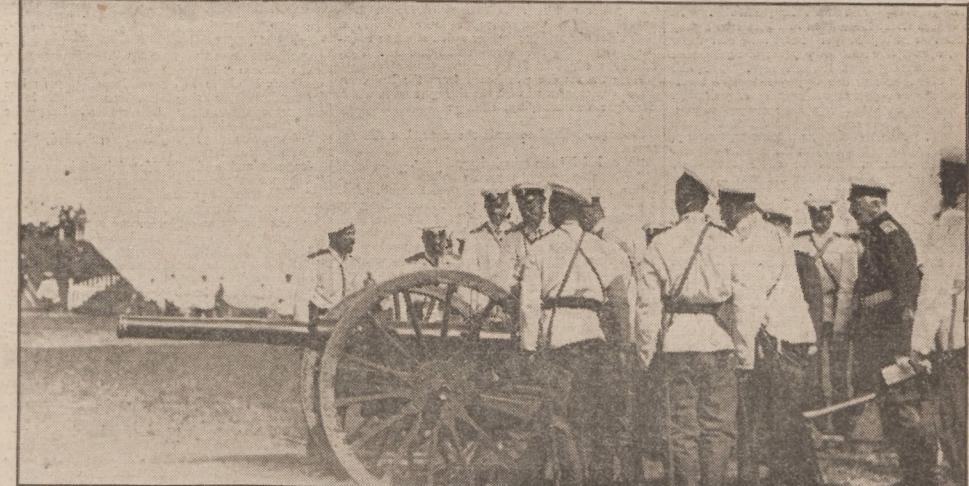


A typical religious Russian beggar. At present these beggars have turned their attention to collecting money for the wounded soldiers, and are gathering large sums.



In winter the harbour at Vladivostok is blocked with ice, and the ice-breakers have to be kept at work to make a way in and out for the Russian squadron of four cruisers.

RUSSIAN GUNNERS GETTING READY FOR THE JAPS.



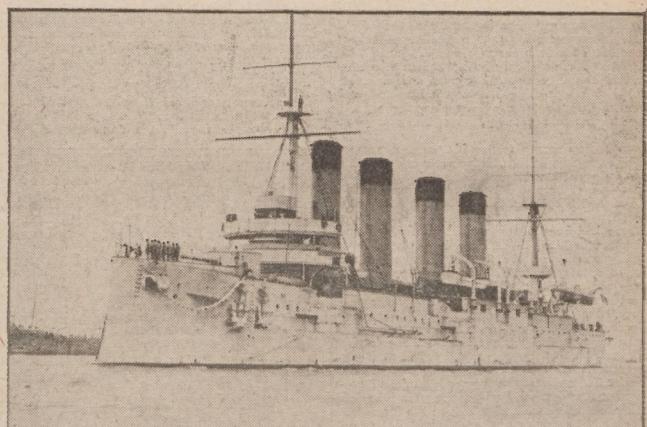
Russia has more artillery than Japan, but the guns are not so up-to-date. In this picture the Russian gunners are making preparations for the Japanese advance by judging the ranges on the banks of the Yalu River.

THE MIKADO FOLLOWS THE WAR.



In order to be nearer to the seat of war, the Mikado of Japan has moved his Court from Tokio to Kioto, which was the capital before the revolution of 1868.

JAPAN'S LATEST VICTIM.



The Bayan, the Russian cruiser which is now supposed to have been the vessel torpedoed at Port Arthur on Sunday during a snowstorm, and not, as first reported, the Boyarin. (Cribb)

THE PATH OF THE PRODIGAL.

A Story of the "Never-Never Land."

By Wilson Barrett,

CHAPTER XXXII. (continued).

Dan and Smudgee saw each other frequently after this. By keeping in touch with Smudgee, Dan was able to learn a great deal about Nat's doings and intentions, which knowledge he was quietly storing up for future use.

Nat and Sal were, naturally, greatly excited over Comstock's intelligence. They were now perfectly certain that the master of Landale Abbey was Jack Mowbray, who had fraudulently taken Landale's place and property. Comstock had told them of Tom's presence as Jack's friend and secretary, and of Wong also. There could not be a shadow of doubt now. Comstock's account of Landale Abbey, its beauty and its value, sent Nat half wild with indignation at the wrong that was being done to him by Jack's usurpation. He had no title name—and he had a copious supply in his vocabulary—that was bad enough for him.

"The thief, the swindler, the impostor, the fraud!" yelled Nat. "I'll be law on 'im; I'll jail 'im; I'll—i—u—" Gradually he worked himself up into a perfect frenzy of righteous indignation. "The thief; ter rob us of such a property as that; the thief, our estates—our money—our—"

"Oh, dry up about 'our' estates and 'our money.' It's no more ours than it is, if it comes to that," exclaimed Sal. "And you know it."

"Well, 'e don't know it, does 'e? Nor nobody else. For all anyone knows, you're Landale's widow, and Smudgee is 'e daughter. You're 'is heiress; the property is yours, and we'll 'ave it, too. I'll go and see a lawyer now. It's a big thing, and we'll 'ave it. Rather—what a swindler the fellow is; I'll jail 'im for life!"

"Now, look 'ere, once and for all, if yer mean any harm to Jack Mowbray, you'll count me out of it. Yer don't touch a 'air of 'e 'e, if I know it!"

"Wot yer mean?"

"Wot I've told yer scores of times. I'll go for the money, and the estates, too, for that matter; but not if it's to get Mowbray in trouble or gaol. If yer try that, I'll split on the whole thing."

Sal meant all she said. She still cared for Jack, after her fashion; still cherished the idea of winning him. If she could, without bringing him within the clutches of the law, get Landale Abbey, he must come to her, she thought. But, callous and heartless as she was, she was sincere in her threat to tell all if Nat attempted to harm him.

Nat went off to find a lawyer, cursing woman's cranks generally and Sal's in particular. In Castle-street there lived and practised a very shrewd and shady lawyer named Raffael Moss Wolfe, a man of about forty years of age, whose name sufficiently indicated his race. He had helped Nat in one or two very questionable transactions, and the pair knew each other perfectly. Wolfe did a little racing, a little money-lending, and many other little things just within the pale of the law. Nat knew that he was clever, cunning, and unscrupulous; in fact, just the man he wanted. To him he went, and laid the whole case before him, concealing the fact that Nat was his wife, speaking of her as his sister.

Mr. Wolfe's ferret-like eyes glittered as he heard the story. He saw in an instant that Nat was lying in some details, but the main facts he believed. Landon was Landale—Landale Abbey was in the hands of Jack Mowbray. If Landale had married Sal, and Smudgee was their daughter, it was clear that the property was legally theirs unless willed away by Landon. No will was in existence, therefore their claim was valid and could not be contested. Wolfe did not trouble himself to tell Nat that he was going to learn all about him and Sal before he moved in the matter; but he did so. He traced Nat and Landon back for many years. The result of his research was to convince him that the greatest hand he had in mind was, with some labour and scheming, to be had through Nat and Sal. He counselled absolute silence on their part. No letters were to be written, no threats made. They would sail for England by the next mail steamer, and, personally investigating the whole case, Wolfe had no business that he would hesitate to leave for such a speculation as this. Getting a hundred pounds from Nat as earnest-money and his saloon passage paid, he made his arrangements to sail with him, Sal, and Smudgee, by the Orient liner *Oruba*, the following week.

Smudgee was in ecstacies. "England. Where Jack was; it's 'eavenly!" The same day she told Dan what was going to happen, and the quick-witted, affectionate Irishman immediately guessed the reason of their sudden departure. Indeed, he had heard Nat drunkenly boasting, in Tattersall's bar, that he was going home to claim a fortune.

"My sister's the biggest heiress in England, and we're going 'ome to take possession of the finest estate in the 'ole country," was Nat's way of putting it.

Dan had no money to pay his passage, and no means of raising it; but he instantly made up his mind to be there as soon as Nat and Wolfe, to be, if possible, of help to Jack. He had ideas of his own on this subject, which he kept studiously to himself.

There had been a strike of ship's firemen and stokers, so he found no difficulty in getting a berth in this capacity on the *Oruba*. It was not the kind of employment he would have chosen, but it was all he could get, and he was prepared to pass the six weeks in what he called "little purgatory" for his friend's sake.

So it came to pass that, when the good ship *Oruba* sailed out of Sydney Harbour, she carried with her Sal, Nat, Smudgee, and Wolfe as saloon passengers, and Dan as stoker. On the vessel's arrival at Marseilles, the former landed and proceeded to London via Paris, while poor Dan had to endure another week of misery at the furnaces.

Paris and London amazed and delighted the Australians. The shops in both cities were a feast of delight to Smudgee and her mother, and, but for

who will appear next week at the Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, in "The Sign of the Cross," and "The Silver King."

Nat's interference, Sal would have spent every penny they possessed. "Why, Paris beats even Sydney," said the excited Sal.

"Pity the poor devils can't speak English," was Nat's remark.

CHAPTER XXXIII. Smudgee Studies the Fashions.

Arrived in London, Mr. Wolfe went to reside with an uncle of his in the Minories, while Nat took rooms at the Starlington Hotel, near Leicestersquare.

Determined to lose no time in prosecuting their claim, Wolfe and Nat went down to Landale to get a look at "our estate," as Nat put it. They stayed overnight at the Railway Hotel. Sal and Smudgee remained in London.

Smudgee had been keeping her keen eyes and ears open, and had gathered, from disjointed scraps of conversation, that her beloved Jack was in some danger, and her little heart was aching to see and warn him. She had tried, unavailingly, to draw from her mother some explanation of their proceedings, but Sal was too much afraid of what she might do to tell her. Smudgee had to watch and find out in her own way what she desired to know. She was much improved in many ways. Quick and observant, she had been studying and noticing things and people on the voyage to London, and much of the roughness of the bush had been removed. She was full of the "fashions," as she called them. It must be admitted that she saw in them very vivid colours. Her taste at this time was very little a little loud. She bought the fashion books and dressmakers' periodicals, and schemed the most wonderful costumes for herself, most of which came to nothing beyond the scheming.

On the morning of Nat's return from Landale of Smudgee was engaged in studying the details of what she called a "Japanese Pegnor." She was wearing a wonderful thing in the way of a dressing-gown. It was of stiff brocaded satin, and very much too long for her—she tripped over it constantly. Her hair was in curling-pins. She was sitting with her hands tightly clasped to her head, her elbows on the table, poring over a paper which was lying on the table before her.

She was alone, and was reading aloud the directions for making the dress. "Nine and a half yards of 22-inch brocade; one and three-quarter yards of 22-inch satin. Yes, brocade—yellow, with large red flowers. Satin, green—no, blue—no, green—yes, I'll have it green. Green soon me, with yellow and red. Skirt skin seams, hem lower edge; cut down centre for placket hole. Hem both sides of opening; gather waist, stitch to waistband, regulating the fullness as holes show. Hemming-bone edges up to muslin."

Here Sal's voice was heard from the bedroom, which communicated with the sitting-room in which Smudgee was studying, calling: "Smudgee!" Smudgee looked towards the door, but did not move.

"Wot is it?" she asked, impatiently. "Where've yer put my blue bodice?"

"In the middle tray of the big black trunk. And I wish, for the Lord's sake, you'd drop calling me Smudgee," said Miss Lucy Landon.

"Well, bring me some whisky and soda, then," pleaded Sal, in a slightly mollifying tone.

Smudgee jumped up distractedly, and went to the sideboard, tripping over her dress as she did so. She poured out the merrid drain of whisky and a tumbler of siphon soda.

"Wot's that?" Sal asked, as she was drinking, and looking over Smudgee's shoulder.

"That's for me—My noo Japanese Pegnor, if you must know. This yer thing never did fit, an' never will," said Smudgee, kicking her dressing-gown with much contempt.

"Yer Uncle Nathan ain't come back yet?"

"No, 'e ain't. And I want to know how my dear Uncle Nathan come to be my dear Uncle Nathan. He wurn't no Uncle Nathan when he was swagging it in the back blocks—and Uncle Nathans don't grow, or come on like bad 'abits."

This was said with a meaning glance at Sal's empty whisky glass. "They've got to be borned. And I want to know how Uncle Nathan got to be borned Uncle Nathan. See?"

"Never mind how he done it. He is your Uncle Nathan."

"Then he must be your brother, or my father's."

"He's my brother, as it 'appens."

"An' your maiden name was Berker, warn't it?"

"Yus—and wot about it?" Sal looked a little alarmed at her daughter's cross-examination. Smudgee had a most uncomfortable way of looking through people at times, and her mother shivered under her gaze.

"Wot about it?" repeated Smudgee, severely. "Then I want ter know how Nathan Rudder is brother to Sarah Berker. Wot's 'e Rudder for, when you was Berker? 'As'e bin married twice?"

"He ain't Nathan Rudder now; 'e's Nathan Berker. And don't you forget it," blurted Sal.

"I won't. I ain't of a forgetful disposition," answered Smudgee, in a tone that added to Sal's discomfiture.

"It'd be better if you was of a more civil disposition, and treated yer mother with more respect."

"Oh, would it? I'rap's it 'ud be better if my mother did a little more to earn my respect. Was I ever treated like a decent human being, except by Jack?" "Wot did you bring me up, eh? Did I ever 'ave anyone to speak to except the men? If I was you, I'd let that subject alone—it's nothing to be proud of." The discussion was interrupted by the appearance of Nat, who swaggered into the room crying:

"Ulo, you two naggin' again."

Nat had changed in appearance. His face was shaven close, save for a heavy moustache. He was dressed in a travelling suit of dark check tweed. He wore a heavy gold chain, scarf-pin, and several shiny rings. He had a large cigar in his mouth, which he was chewing; it was not at light. His mouth was deeper, redder tinged than of yore, and he was decidedly more corpulent.

"Ulo, you two naggin' again." "Ere's Wolfe with me."

Sal went into the bedroom, put on a gorgeously-coloured morning wrapper, and returned as Nat ushered Wolfe into the room.

"Come in, Wolfe. There's only my sister and my niece, Smudgee, 'ere."

"No, it ain't yer niece, Smudgee—neither. It's Miss Lucy Landon. An' if yer'll all excuse me, I'll retire ter my boo-dore. I ain't receivin' at present; and if I wur, I ain't quite dressed for company." Here Smudgee stumbled over her dress.

Nathan laughed loudly, "Ha, ha, ha!"

"Ha, ha, ha!" mimicked Smudgee. "Very funny, ain't it? But not so funny as the fact that you're my dear Uncle Nathan Rudder Berker, and don't you forget it. I know yet." And Smudgee stumbled through the door into the bedroom.

"Wot's up with her now?" asked Nat.

"Don't ask me," retorted Sal.

"Hav a nip?" Nat asked of Wolfe.

"No; I never drink in business hours, Mr. Berker."

The door of Smudgee's bedroom was gently opened. Nat noticed it and said sharply: "Shut that door, Sal."

Wolfe closed the door, and turned to Nat, who said, "Well, we've been down to see the crib. It's a pallis, Sal; and the estate is a—well, it's a little county."

"Did yer see Mowbray?" Sal enquired with much interest.

"At a distance—yes. It's him right enough, and they've all taken 'im on as Jack Landale, and 'e's their lord and master. I tell yer, Sal, it's a wonderful place. Tell 'er wot you think the income is, Wolfe."

Wolfe answered quietly: "Anything from £20,000 to £25,000 a year."

"My word," exclaimed Sal.

"Think on it, an' all ours, if we can get our 'ands on it," said Nat.

"Well, wot are we going to do?"

"Tell 'er, 'e Wolfe." Nat helped himself to the refreshments as usual, and lit his cigar.

"Well, Mrs. Landale, we're going to try to dispossess Mr. Mowbray, if we can. He is an imposter, that we can prove easily," Wolfe answered, and went on: "The estate and the bulk of the income were left to Mr. John Landale, your late husband, and, he being dead, the next-of-kin is his legitimate descendant—his daughter, Lucy—the young lady who has just left us."

Sal was almost weeping as she exclaimed, "Oh, dear, my word!"

Eagerly and excitedly Nat joined in, saying, "With me an' you as 'er ex-executors and guardians, see, Sal? See, why, we shall be regular dooks and duchesses, shan't we—eh, old girl?"

"Yes; but let us settle how we are going to try to get our hands on it," quietly interposed Wolfe.

Mowbray is in possession, accepted as John Landale by his mother, his sister, and all who are of importance."

"Is he? Well, he ain't. See; I'm of some importance, and he ain't accepted by me—not by a lot of 'em. I've got something to say about that," said Sal applied once more to the decanter.

"So have I, Mrs. Landale, and I think you'd better listen to it." Mr. Wolfe was icily calm, and his voice was cold and metallic.

"Of course you've something to say. Do shut yer front winder, Sal. Don't chip in so much. No so much chin."

"Jack Mowbray is now John Landale. Our assertion that he is Jack Mowbray is of no use without witnesses to prove it. You claim to be Mrs. Landale," Wolfe said, turning to Sal.

"Claim to be; i am."

"Claim to be Mrs. Landale," quietly repeated Wolfe. "But you've got to prove that you married Jack Landale, that Jack Landale was heir to Landale Abbey, that he died at Woolloomooloo Gully, and that his heiress is Miss Lucy Landale."

To be continued

NEXT WEEK, MONDAY, February 22.

WILSON BARRETT,

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OUR SINCEREST FLATTERERS

The "Daily Illustrated Mirror" Encourages Imitation.

The marvellous success of the *Daily Illustrated Mirror* has already made such inroads upon the circulation of the old-fashioned weekly illustrated papers that the proprietors of the latter, in one instance at least, are busily engaged in formulating a counterpart.

The "Illustrated London News" and "Sketch" company propose to launch at an early date a new daily illustrated paper, the name of which is to be the "Daily Illustrated."

The latest project is, in regard to details, a profound secret, but a *Daily Illustrated Mirror* representative learns on the highest authority that the new paper is unquestionably to appear.

But what the price is to be, and the date of issue, are matters that for the present are a secret.

At the same time, the project of the "Illustrated London News" bears ample testimony, if such were needed, that the *Daily Illustrated Mirror* has supplied a great public want—want that the older journals did not rise to, nor appreciate. It is the *Daily Illustrated Mirror* that has led the way. The competition of the laggards will be of little avail.

BOOM IN JAP STAMPS.

Printed on Rice-paper and of Unrivalled Design.

Japanese stamps are always favourites with philatelists on account of their artistic beauty of design and delicacy of colour, but just now there is an unprecedented demand for them, especially

AN ARMY SCANDAL.

Has Half-a-Million of Money Been Wasted on the New Rifle?

The new pattern Government rifle, from which so much had been expected, has proved to be an absolute failure.

It was recently tested at Hythe, and a report published that it was in every way a success, but the authorities at Enfield know better, and the true state of affairs has leaked out.

The very qualities that were to make the rifle unique in modern warfare are responsible for its failure. Everything has been done to make the rifle light, and to ensure this, strength so necessary for an army weapon has been sacrificed. The barrel has been shortened and so reduced in thickness that it is impossible to use a cartridge of sufficient power to obtain what is now considered a satisfactory range.

"There is no doubt that the War Office has blundered," said the manager of Messrs. W. J. Jeffery, of Queen Victoria-street. "Yet they have not stopped work on the rifle, and talk of issuing it to the Army. Already nearly half a million of money has been spent on its manufacture, expensive new machines have been put down at the Enfield factory, and it has taken four years to discover the worthlessness of the rifle.

"The chief faults lie in the shortness of range and the inaccuracy of the shooting. In these days long and accurate range is a necessity. With such a rifle as this in the hands of our soldiers we could not hope to make any show against European Powers armed with weapons like the French Lebel or the new American rifle.

"Briefly, the range is so short that if we were at war with a Continental nation they would be able to mow down our men before we could get within shooting distance. Or the enemy could remain out

THE GOVERNMENT WARNED.

Next General Election Will Put the Liberals in Power.

The Government has been informed by the organisers of the National Union of Conservative Associations that the Liberals will gain sufficient seats at the next general election to give them, with the Nationalists, a Parliamentary majority of at least fifty-one.

A well-known M.P. who gave a *Daily Illustrated Mirror* representative this information went on to say: "A canvass of the local agents of the constituencies of a most exhaustive character has been taken during the last few weeks, and after carefully weighing up the returns, political experts calculate that the present Opposition are certain to come into office.

"It is anticipated that they will not occupy the Treasury Bench for more than two years, as by that time the country will have become convinced of the necessity of a retaliatory tariff, and will be prepared to support Mr. Chamberlain, and those who see eye to eye with him.

"The Liberals will, doubtless, endeavour to gain the whole-hearted support of the public by passing popular measures, and thus become independent of the Nationalists, upon whose favours in the early days of office they will have to largely rely."

THE GENIAL CHUNCHUS.

Manchurian Robbers who, the Russians Say, are Instigated by Japan.

Russia is industriously disseminating the report that the Japanese are inciting the "Chunchus" of Manchuria to trouble the Russians and raid the Manchurian Railway. As

MANCHURIAN BRIGANDS FIGHT FOR JAPAN.



The Chunchus, who are the brigand bands of Manchuria, are making constant attacks on the Russians, and have succeeded in cutting the railway in several places. It is believed that they are organised by Japanese officers.

... schoenbooy collectors. The naval triumphs of the Mikado's sailors have made everything Japanese of value in the market of the class-rooms just now.

The managing director of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, a representative of the *Daily Illustrated Mirror* yesterday that less was known of the methods of producing the Japanese issues than of any other stamps in the world. "We know they are printed on rice-paper made by themselves and signs they are very excellent reproductions of designs which are little univalued in the philatelic world but that is all."

The Japanese stamps were produced in 1871 and were unperfected. The utmost care was taken in printing, and in some cases more than twice was used in engraving a single example.

Japan has accumulated among the great specimens, the most that has been paid for a single specimen being £10. Curiously enough, the Indian stamps are also very beautiful, especially the older issues. Formerly all Russian stamps would lose their colour if brought in contact with

of the range of the new rifle, and still be able to keep up a dangerous fire with their longer-distance guns.

"That the War Office realise that the rifle is not all that can be desired is shown by their reluctance to issue it, as they know that by so doing the blunders and mistakes would be at once exposed.

"Another feature of the new rifle is that the barrel is entirely covered in with wood, the object of which is to prevent the user being burnt by an overheated barrel. Now, anyone who knows anything about shooting will realise that, should this wood get thoroughly wet, as it might well do on a campaign, it would warp and ruin what little it now possesses.

At the present time, a *Daily Illustrated Mirror* representative learns, the War Office has its eyes on another rifle, of the automatic pattern. The story goes that two foremen from the Enfield works dressed up in frock coats, tall hats, kid gloves, and all the attire of independent gentlemen, and looking as unlike themselves as possible, happened to be in the neighbourhood of the factory where this rifle was being made.

They called in, with the result that the military authorities are keeping an eye on things. Co-incident with this an anonymous prize of £100 has been offered at the next Bisley competition for the best automatic rifle. There may be a connection between these two incidents.

suredly these interesting brigands need no sort of encouragement.

From time immemorial the Chunchus have been the scourge of Manchuria. In the far-away days when the Chinese first settled in the country many of the immigrants were of the lowest and most degraded of their race, outlaws and criminals of the worst kind. With no wish for peaceful trade or for farming the land, these desperados formed themselves into robber bands, and, their numbers being swelled by kindred spirits among the Manchus, they grew into a powerful league, calling themselves "Humhulze" (the Red Beards). They took for their device a red flag, emblazoned with their motto— "Vengeance."

To their cost the Russians have found the Chunchus, as they call them, to be as full of evil vitality at the present day as ever they were. They fear the authority of neither China nor Russia. During the construction of the Manchurian Railway they made periodical raids on the Russian outposts, massacred Cossacks, and pillaged the stations. The horses of the Chunchus are a byword for fleetness and endurance, and they easily outstrip the mounted Cossack, while the Chinese soldier invariably shows a clean pair of heels when the Red-beards are on his track.

As proof of their audacity, we have it on the authority of Mr. Colquhoun that the Chunchus established an insurance office in New-chwang, and levied a toll on the merchants who desired to trade in the interior. Every trader thus insured was provided with a flag, which he flew on the stern of his cart, and with this protecting symbol proceeded inland, sure of being unmolested by the brigands who terrorised the whole country.

NEW IRISH ROUTE.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Midland Railway yesterday, at Derby, the chairman dilated on the advantages that would accrue to the company by their acquisition of the Belfast Northern Counties Railway. By August next the Midland will have their own steamers running from Heysham to Belfast and the Isle of Man, and will actively compete for a share in the Irish traffic.

SPECIAL WAR CABLES

From Special Correspondents

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Dispatch'

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SHOULD BE DELIVERED AT YOUR HOUSE REGULARLY.

SEE TO IT TO-DAY.

JAPAN HONOURS HER HEROIC DEAD.



Impressive burial services have been performed at Sasebo over the remains of the three Japanese officers and the two sailors who were killed in the attack on Port Arthur. The ceremony was performed by a Shinto priest, and Admiral Sameji delivered an oration in honour of the dead.

PROMINENT PEOPLE.

It is the Duchess of Fife's birthday to-day, one of the least known, though by no means the least interesting, members of our royal family. She is an extremely retiring—almost timid—disposition, so much so that merry Princess Maud has often called her "her royal shyness." Another story which is held up against her in the family is that once, when invited to Sandringham, she implored before-hand, "Above all, let there be no strangers," preferring the quiet of the home circle. The Duchess is happy with her rod in hand, fishing near her beloved Scottish home, and many a fine salmon has the royal sportswoman landed. Unfortunately, the Duke does not share her taste, preferring a gun to the more placid joys of the water-side. Mar Lodge is a handsome house, though the inside effect is rather bizarre, as the walls are all hung with the Duff tartan.

A Bride from the Stage.

We learn that that clever actress and sweet woman, Miss Ellis Jeffreys, is to be married to-day to Mr. Herbert Sleath. With her dark Irish beauty and charming grace, she has always possessed a large share of our hearts; in her we have the true comedienne, with a never-failing fund of gaiety, as innocent as it is spontaneous. Oddly enough, her first picture was in comic opera, when, having charmed Sir Arthur Sullivan with her sweet mezzo-soprano voice, she gave her a part in "The Yoman of the Guard" during the last six weeks of its run. Her next attempt was in a minor part in "La Cigale," at the Shaftesbury, holiday at Scarborough, that the management telegraphed to her to come and take a principal

rôle at a moment's notice. Miss Jeffreys evidently believed in that tide in the affairs of men which leads to fortune, and determined not to miss it; she came at once, learnt the whole thing—music and words—while she was dressing, and the performance went without a hitch.

The New Peer.

The Hon. Humphrey Sturt, the new Lord Alington, is a most interesting man and a keen politician. His wife, Lady Feo Sturt, is one of

society's noted beauties, with her dark glowing loveliness, often becomingly framed in rich Oriental draperies. Her taste is for everything warm and luxurious, she loves to bask in a world of colour and brightness, and has also a weakness for jewels, of which she has a magnificent collection. Her favourite flower is the gardenia, while her husband's is the violet, and he is hardly ever to be seen without a button-hole of the modest little blossom. Their one daughter is, strangely enough, as fair as her mother is dark; she is most

appropriately named Diana, and has already appeared in society.

The King's Host.

"A strong British Navy is the strongest argument for peace" is one of the most striking sayings of Admiral Sir John Fisher, the King's host at Portsmouth, and is thoroughly characteristic of him. For one year he was Second Naval Lord of the Admiralty, and proved himself in this capacity, as in every other position he has held, "a glutton for work."

In appearance he bears a great resemblance to Lord Charles Beresford, and, like him too, has a very distinguished record. Most popular with his men, although a rigid disciplinarian, his administrative skill is unequalled, and he is possessed of a keen sense of humour as well as a great deal of native wit.

New Lady Fencer.

Miss Felicity Romilly, whose skill at fencing has been awarded a prize, is the youngest daughter of a talented couple. Her mother, Lady Arabella Romilly, the eldest daughter of Lord Soutesk, is not only well known as a writer of more than a little talent, but also excels at needlework.

The most elaborate and exquisite designs, all evolved by her own clever brain, are carried out by her hands in the most delicate embroidery, and some of the figures she has worked look exactly as if they had been painted, so fine is the work put into them.

Mr. Romilly used to be an adept in the art of fencing, and it is from him that his daughter inherits her skill with the foil. One remarkable feat is attributed to him. Wounded in the leg by a rifle-shot, he then and there sat down and cut out the bullet himself with his own penknife.



MISS ELLIS JEFFREYS,
Who is playing at the Haymarket Theatre in
"Joseph Entangled," is to be married to-day.
[Photos by Lankster.]



MR. HERBERT SLEATH,
who marries the charming actress, Miss Ellis
Jeffreys, to-day. The wedding is to be quite
quiet. Mr. Sleath is also on the stage.

It was as a jockey in several of the House of Commons steeplechases that Mr. Bromley-Davenport, who announced details of the new scheme for the organisation of the Army Medical Service in the House, became first known to fame.

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CUP TIES.

Given Fine Weather, Tremendous Crowds Should be Seen at Tottenham and Woolwich To-day.

"THE COCK O' THE NORTH."

Spurs to Meet Aston Villa in a Cup Tie.

To-day is one of the red-letter days in the footballer's calendar, for the sixteen professional clubs which have survived the first round of the competition proper for the F. A. Cup will be fighting their hardest for the privilege of participating in the next bout.

Thoughts of the F. A. Cup, the trophy most coveted by every football organisation, will unquestionably spur every man appearing before the vast, excited, but ever optimistic crowds that will congregate at the various centres where the matches are to be decided to show the best side of his character as a player.

Three Southern clubs have earned the right to appear in these history-making contests. Two of these—Southampton and Tottenham Hotspur—are members of the Southern League, while Woolwich Arsenal, who were the pioneers of professionalism in the South of England, are staunch adherents of the Second Division of the Football League.

During recent years London has been particularly well served in the matter of Cup contests. For instance, last season Millwall, who subsequently fought their way into the semi-final, and the "Spurs" of Tottenham were both "at home" in the second round. To-day the latter club—the club that earned undying fame by bringing the coveted Cup to the South after it had found a resting place at the headquarters of their Northern rivals for twenty years—will entertain one of England's greatest teams—Aston Villa.

Whilst the "Spurs" are endeavouring to oust the Villans, Woolwich Arsenal will be struggling with Manchester City at Plumstead. At which rendezvous, we wonder, will the greatest crowd congregate? Thousands doubtless would, if it were possible, bisect themselves and visit both resorts at the same time.

A Great Question.

But the vital question which has been so feverishly discussed since the draw was made is, how many Southern clubs will survive to-day's ordeal? Woolwich Arsenal have spent the last few days in perplexity. They had reached a point along the highroad of success where they must perform choose one of two turnings. A friendly finger-post told them that the road to the right led to Promontion, the Palace, and "Klondike," whilst to the left lay the first and last of these precious boons.

The general vote was in favour of the threefold blessing, and no doubt the "Reds" will fight like demons for success this afternoon. Their splendid home record this season will urge the men on. On the Manor Field this term nine League matches have been played and won, and 48 goals scored against the two registered by their opponents.

Although they found much difficulty in defeating Bristol Rovers (whom they had to meet three times before being able to claim a victory) in the preliminary round, and in scoring in their one-sided contest against Fulham in the first round, the Arsenal are greatly fancied for their chance this afternoon.

Besides their great Plumstead record the "Reds" have not forgotten the fact that they defeated the City last season in a League match at Plumstead.

The Visiting Players.

No fewer than seven of the men who did duty for Manchester on that occasion will wear their colours to-day. First, there is Hillman, their giant goalkeeper, standing over 6 ft. in height and weighing 15st. Should he be the cause of the Arsenal failing in their fight, Southerners can derive comfort from the fact that he is a native of Plymouth, where he was born in 1872.

The City possess two great defenders in McMahon and Burgess. The latter, who learned his football at Glossop, has been selected to play against Wales. This tells the value of his play. Of their half-backs, the best known to dwellers in the south is the fair-haired Frost. Millwall people know him best, for he was born in their district and allowed to slip through their fingers before his ability was known.

Manchester's outside right, W. Meredith, has been described as the best man in the position in England. Certainly Wales, for whom he has played many seasons, have much to thank him for.

Hillman, Frost, Hynds, Meredith, Gillespie, and Turnbull were the Manchester men who played the Arsenal last season, while Burgess, the back, played at Plumstead for Glossop.

The City, who have been undergoing special training at Blackpool, journeyed to London yesterday and made the Tavistock Hotel their headquarters. The Arsenal brigade, fully appreciating the efficaciousness of Plumstead air, have spent their week at home. At the last moment all were reported as being fit and well and ready to fight for a kingdom or a cup.

Although it was at first thought that Shanks, the Irish international sharpshooter, would be unable to take his place in the team owing to a sprained leg, yet the latest advices from Woolwich state that he will turn out.

Tottenham Hotspur have good cause to feel a trifle doubtful as to the result of their encounter

with Aston Villa at Tottenham. The teams met on the ground of the London club in the third round last season, and the spoils were taken back to Birmingham by the narrow margin of three goals to two.

One who witnessed that game and who is well acquainted with the form and styles of the two elevens is convinced that the "Spurs" have a much more solid chance of victory than they had nearly twelve months ago.

Then their team was not such a well-balanced one all round, for it contained Dryburgh and Cameron on the right wing—a pair that never approached in effectiveness the combination represented by Cameron and the flying Tom Smith. The outside right position gave the Hotspur directors great concern last year; now they seem not only to have secured the very man they want in J. Jones, but they have had the additional luck to secure a partner to suit him in the person of Warner. Jones at his best is a fearless player and a deadly shot at goal. Warner is fast and full of tricks, and if he does not centre so accurately and so swiftly as did Tom Smith, he is not deficient in the art.

Buck Up, Vivian!

So far as the "Spurs" are concerned a great deal depends upon their amateur centre forward, Vivian Woodward. Until last Saturday Woodward had shown a strange inability to get goals. Against Bristol Rovers, however, his shooting was splendid, and if he is only in the same form to-day George will have an anxious time of it.

Undoubtedly, Aston Villa's chances will be somewhat weakened by the absence of Evans, their left full-back. Evans accidentally broke his left leg just above the ankle in the first-round tie with Stoke a fortnight ago. They will also be without Pearson, their best half-back. The club is so rich in first-class players, however, that there need be little doubt as to the quality of the substitutes.

The Hotspurs have been training during the week at Leigh-on-Sea, near Southend, and the Birmingham players did not come to town until this morning.

The gate is certain to be one of the very largest in the history of the Tottenham Hotspur club. Exactly 24,000 people witnessed last year's game at Villa Park, the gate realising in money £1,791, or £30 less than the record for the ground, which was made in a Cup-tie with West Bromwich Albion the year the "Spurs" won the Cup. Tickets for to-day's encounter were completely sold out a week ago.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL FIXTURES.

ASSOCIATION.

ASSOCIATION CUP—(Second Round)
Blackburn Rovers v. Notts Forest.
Tottenham Hotspur v. Aston Villa.
Woolwich Arsenal v. Manchester City.
Bury v. Sheffield United.
Gateshead County v. Wolverhampton Wanderers.
Bolton Wanderers v. Birmingham.
Sheffield Wednesday v. Manchester United.
Preston North End v. Middlesbrough.

THE LEAGUE—(Division L)

Notts County v. West Bromwich Albion. (Division 2)

Barnsley v. Bradford.
Bury v. Gainsborough Trinity.
Gateshead v. Chesterfield.
Grimsby v. Lincoln Foss.

Lincoln City v. Glossop.

Lonely Star v. Farnborough.

Wellingborough v. New Brighton.

Southall v. Portsmouth Reserves.

Southampton Reserves v. Ryhope Wanderers.

SCOTTISH CUP.

Loth Athletic v. Morton.

3rd Lanark v. Kilmarnock.

St. Mirren v. Glasgow Rangers.

Celtic v. Dundee.

AMATEUR CUP.

Oxford City v. Cheshunt.

Easington v. Tunbridge Wells.

West Hamstead v. Whiteheads.

ARTHUR DUNN CUP.

Old Reptonians v. Old Carthusians.

LONDON CHARITY FINAL.

Casuals v. Clapton.

ESSEX SENIOR CUP.

London v. Romford.

LONDON LEAGUE.

Fulham Reserves v. Queen's Park Rangers Reserves.

Bronford Reserves v. 1st Grenadier Guards.

West Ham United Reserves v. Willesden Town.

(Division II.)

Hendon v. Hanwell.

Woolwich Polytechnic v. Cheshunt.

Walthamstow v. Finchley.

Enfield v. Oxford S.E.

SOUTHERN ASSEMBLY LEAGUE.

New Brompton Res. v. Gray's.

War Office Res. v. Chesham Generals.

Watford v. Woolwich Arsenal Reserves.

Aylesbury United v. Brightlingsea Reserves.

KENT LEAGUE.

Chatham v. Shepway.

Folkestone v. Dover.

SOUTHERN SUBURBAN LEAGUE.

Dulwich Hamlet v. Bromley.

West Norwood v. Wellingborough.

WEST MIDDLESEX CUP.

Uxbridge v. Kensington Town.

OTHER MATCHES.

Luton Res. v. Wanstead.

Leyston Res. v. Gray's.

Ilford v. Marlow.

Old M. v. New M. v. Hampstead.

Sloane v. Chesham.

Shepherd's Bush v. Clapton Orient.

rugby.

London Welsh v. Cambridge University.

Blackburn R. v. Oxford University.

Bath v. London Scottish.

Leomin v. Hayes.

Aberavon v. Pontypool.

Cardiff v. Park v. Manchester.

Newport v. Cardiff.

Leeds v. Chesterfield.

Exeter v. Doncaster Albion.

Swansea v. Gloucester.

Monmouth v. Cheltenham.

Huygh v. Cheltenham.

Glynn v. Torquay.

All matches on ground of first-named club.

THE WATERLOO CUP

Won by an Outsider, in Homfray.

Prior to Homfray's great victory yesterday, he had done nothing to stamp him as a likely winner of the Blue Riband of the Leash, although he has certainly displayed some smartness on the two occasions on which he has been seen out.

The winner is an April puppy by that splendid greyhound, Fabulous Fortune—Kilmude, and is owned by Mr. E. Herbert, who secured Mr. G. Darlinson's nomination owing to the last-named not having a dog sufficiently good to run at Formby.

Minchmuir, the runner-up, is a black bitch puppy, and is May-Kafrin's Queen. She represented Mr. R. H. Whitworth, and is owned by Mr. H. T. Michell, a well-known member of the London Stock Exchange.

Both the plate and the purse were divided, and in the former Lone Star ran one of the best courses of the meeting.

The coursing, which was slow, took place on the Withins, and the attendance, for a last day, was large. The weather held up till the end of the proceedings, and then rain fell heavily.

The WATERLOO CUP (with cup, value £100, added by the Earl of Sefton) for 64 subscribers at £25 each; winner £500, second £200, third £100, four dogs £50 each, eight dogs £20 each, sixteen dogs £10 each.

FIFTH ROUND.

HOMFRAY v. LONELY STAR FAIR.

Betting—3 to 1 on Homfray. Homfray Fair at once drew well clear, but, warning to her work, led on his side, straightened, and Homfray just shot up for the turn. The fairer, however, was the better runner, and the race was run to a standstill, and Homfray seized the opportunity, and in some strong work, but in a long spin he failed to equalise matters, although he was in possession when puns were killed.

MINCHMUIR beat HAUGHTON FERRY.

Betting—11 to 4 on Minchmuir. Minchmuir started slowly, but, warning to her work, led at the turn by three lengths, and then scored the next two or three points in front of the fairer. The latter, however, was the better runner, and Homfray seized the opportunity, and in some strong work, but in a long spin he failed to equalise matters, although he was in possession when puns were killed.

MINCHMUIR beat HAUGHTON FERRY.

Betting—4 to 1 on Homfray. Homfray Fair at once showed in front, and, growing bolder, turned his head to turn the three lengths in front of his opponent. The red also scored the next point before Minchmuir became placed, but after some strong work, but in a long spin he failed to equalise matters, although he was in possession when puns were killed.

DECIDING COURSE.

Mr. G. Darlinson's nomination, Mr. H. T. Michell's nomination, Mr. R. H. Whitworth's nomination, Mr. N. T. Michell's MINCHMUIR.

Prize—LONELY STAR beat HAUGHTON FERRY.

Betting—11 to 4 on Homfray. Homfray Fair at once showed in front, and, growing bolder, turned his head to turn the three lengths in front of his opponent. The fairer, however, was the better runner, and Homfray seized the opportunity, and in some strong work, but in a long spin he failed to equalise matters, although he was in possession when puns were killed.

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NEWMARKET NOTES.

Karakoul—"A Verritable Smasher."

One of the most active and most genial trainers at Newmarket is Mr. C. W. Golding. For the sake of his health he takes more walking exercise than any other of the trainers, and always has a smile on his face.

When Ryan's team passed me on Thursday, I was struck with the improvement that is being made with a two-year-old daughter of Kendal. She is a big, upstanding filly, who requires more care, and I shall be surprised if she does not win races.

Amidst, a two-year-old daughter of Chalebury—La Sagesse, is a nice-looking filly who will be a valuable addition to the racing mill.

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ACRES AND HIS ACHEs.

George Morris Rides Bobbie To-day.

Fine weather at Lingfield brought out a strong attendance of racegoers, after two days' compulsion holiday. The conditions were nicer for men and horses, for the lower ground near the stands proved to be dreadfully holding. Harry Custance, announced overnight, started the various races, and gave customary satisfaction.

Acres, who had the misfortune to hurt his leg through Bennipond falling at the preliminary hurdle at Windsor, was enabled to once again, and took the mount on Denver II. He was placed second to Sweet Dixie, who came home alone, just to show that the Alfriston stable is still in form. Acres will be inquisitive at Birmingham, where all reports concerning the course being snowed up are contradicted by Mr. Ford, and the meeting is fully expected to come off. Acres does not anticipate that will do ditto, and also hopes to have a look-in at the Grand National, in which important event his master will be ridden by Acres, instead of E. Matthews, with whom he fell eleven months ago.

Oleaster was not given out overnight as an entrant for the Greenhurst Steeplechase, in which Gully had three horses—Tonsure, Bucksfoot,

Gravetye Hurdle Race, in which La Laide ran well, but the Newmarket candidate, Zampa, won neatly. Zampa is for sale, and can be secured for "five hundred" and a contingency of half the stake if he wins any more of his present engagements. I hear that the wealthy Prince Hatzfeldt is playing the overture to Zampa.

FANCIES FOR TO-DAY.

LINGFIELD.

2. 0.—Crownhurst Steeple—SWEETHEART III. 2.30.—Lingfield Steeple—FIRE ISLAND. 3. 0.—Hever Hurdle—HOPELESS II. 3.00.—Lulney 1000—CHESHIRE BEAU. 4. 0.—Oaklands Steeple—DIDN'T KNOW. 4.30.—Cobham Hurdle—BUTTERWORT.

THE ARROW.

RACING RETURNS.

LINGFIELD.—FRIDAY.

2.0.—THE GROOMBRIDGE STEEPECHASE OF 70 YARDS.

Three miles. Mr. H. Bottomley's SWEET DIXIE, 67rs, 12st 3lb. 1st. Mr. B. Bonas's DENVER II, 57rs, 11st 10lb....Acres 1st. Mr. H. B. Law's Goodwill, aged 2, 12st 3lb....W. Morgan 2nd. Betting—5 to 1 against Sweet Dixie, 13 to 8 Denver II, and 3 to 1 Goodwill. Won by thirty lengths.

2.50.—GREENHURST SELLING STEEPECHASE OF 80 YARDS.

Two miles. Mr. L. Bottomley's PARTRIDGE, 67rs, 12st 3lb....Mason 1st. Mr. A. B. Woodland's MORNING DEW, aged, 12st 3lb....R. Woodland 2nd. Mr. E. Woodland's FAIRLIGHT GLEN, 67rs, 12st 3lb....R. Woodland 3rd.

THE RIDER OF SIRENIA.



Fred Rickaby, who is said to be applying to the stewards of the Jockey Club for a renewal of the license previously withheld, used to be chief jockey to Lord Durham, in whose colours he won many races. For Mr. New Fenwick he took the Oaks on Mimi, and for Lord Derby he steered Canterbury Pilgrim to the event. He was apprenticed in France to Joe Marsh, brother to the King's trainer, and his first winner on Fireball, at Kempton Park, in 1878. He won the Lincoln Handicap with The King, but his most brilliant effort was on Sirenia, when, in the Great Jubilee Stake at Kempton Park, she beat the American jockey, Rigby, and Merry Methodist by a short head.

Tonsure refused, and Oleaster Partridge flew home, though not last throughout at high game.

In the Southern Steeplechase, Mr. Denny made the pace as hot with Golden Wedding that he placed our most of the runners. Azro stuck to his leader as long as possible, and both practically cut our own throats," the former being down and the latter falling. George Morris, his rider, was carried back on the ambulance, but happily only injured his ribs to a small degree, and got into Mr. Sievier's place this morning to the great relief. That will be his mount to the Grand National. In the Southern Steeplechase, Ipswich nearly shot R. Morgan out of the saddle.

Cheshire Beau won the Overnight Hurdle Race so cleverly that E. Woodland went to 130 guineas to secure him. Tuscan, a grey, whom Woodland claimed out of a race at Folkestone, made a creditable show, and will win a good race one day.

Most Excellent was very unlucky in the February Handicap Race, won by Revera, who had previously lost her owner a deal of money. When leading two hurdles from home Mr. Stedall's representative sent a hurdle flying, and came down on his hands. That lost him the race. The hot tip, Trelawney, fell at the first obstacle, giving P. Woodland a nasty shock.

Gastald Day, who did not run at Lingfield, is now forced to Sandown Park.

Which reminds us that Dearslayer chased his horse when running at Esher, and has been on the walking list for some days. He, may still, however, be on the running list in the Grand National, where his weight is only 10st. 10lb.

Mr. John Corlett came specially to see Turbulent, and supported his representative for the

MURDER OR SUICIDE?

The Victim of the Kilburn Tragedy Identified.

The woman who was found with her throat cut and her body mutilated by passing trains on the London and North-Western Line near Kilburn Station on Thursday morning has now been identified, but the mystery surrounding her death has not yet been elucidated.

She was a Mrs. Edith Collett, living in Salisbury-road, Kilburn. Her husband is a labourer, who for the past four months has been without work. In company with his brother on Wednesday afternoon, he walked to Ruislip Woods in Hertfordshire, to seek employment. But the situation he had heard of had already been filled, and the two men tramped back to Kilburn. They arrived home at four o'clock on Thursday morning.

Collett found his two children crying bitterly at the absence of their parents, for the mother was missing from the house. He was much perplexed at her absence, and still further troubled when he discovered that his razor had disappeared.

Worn out as he was by his long tramp to Rickmansworth and back, he set out to search for his wife. Unsuccessful in his quest, he went to the police station at last, wholly unaware that a woman's body had been found in the district that morning.

The police, finding that the description he gave of his missing wife corresponded with the appearance of the woman found on the line, conducted him to Kilburn mortuary, where he at once identified the body.

Conflicting theories as to whether the case is one of murder or suicide still prevail, but the only new fact which has transpired seems to strengthen the former. Late on Wednesday night, it is said, two men and a woman were heard quarrelling within a few yards of the place where the body was found, and that a workman on his way home heard the woman's Christian name and the surname of one of the men spoken. The police are endeavouring to discover these men.

It is contended that the theory of suicide is the more acceptable one, since it is known that Mrs. Collett had been much worried through her husband's inability to obtain work, and that she had also been troubled by illness. She had been on Monday to St. Mary's Hospital, where it was suggested she should undergo an operation for an internal complaint; but she refused.

The inquest will be held on Monday.

ANGLING NOTES.

The recent floods have rendered angling operations all over the country, and especially in the South of England, a matter of extreme difficulty, if not an impossibility.

During the last few days a good many anglers have been out in the upper reaches of the Thames fishing from boats and punts, in the hope of a good catch, but very little has been taken. But pike fishing and long-corking for chub, usually such good sport at this period of the year, have been quite a hopeless pursuit.

In the Lea, however, matters have not been so bad. As the river has been raised by the recent rains, the river a very good colour, and although the fish have been difficult to find, some moderate bags have been made. As long ago as last Tuesday, the winter was roach-hunting opposite the Angel Inn, St. Margaret's, and met with fair success with the roach. He had one rather curious experience during the day, a large pike taking his bait (gentles). The fish was held for a second and then was brought to the surface. But that was only the beginning, for the fish continued to bite. In the end, a vigorous shake by the fish caused the frail gossamer gut to be broken. It says something for the ravenous state in which this pike of between 8lb. and 10lb. had become for him to take gentles.

There are hopes this year that the long-desired muster of 2,000 members for the Anglers' Benevolent Society will be attained. Mr. Barber states that they are within measurable distance of that number, and a big effort will be made to recruit the membership during the season. Since out of the 20,000 London anglers mentioned in the Anglers' Association's petition to the Board of Trade, it should not be difficult to enlist a membership of ten per cent.

Mr. F. E. Eldred, the hon. secy. of the Gresham Angling Society, will read a paper on Tuesday night at the Club headquarters, the Manchester Hotel, Aldersgate-street, on "Trout Streams, and how to keep them in good fishing condition." Seeing that the Gresham remains the best trout waters on the rivers Colne and Chess, Mr. Eldred's remarks should be worthy of all attention.

Two more fine roach have been captured in the Lea. One scaled 1lb. 10oz. and the other, which was shown by Mr. Anderson at the West Green Angling Society, turned the scale at 1lb. 12oz.

Whilst some of the Scottish salmon rivers are unfishable, owing to the heavy rains, on others excellent sport has been obtained. Some good fish have been taken in the Loch Tay, Loch Ness, the Devon, the Esk, and the Spey, and all have yielded fine salmon. The Prince of Wales will visit Speyside for the fishing, where the Duke of Gordon and Lord Bernera have already enjoyed some capital fishing.



THE FATAL LOOP.
Miss Mina Alix, who was injured while Looping the Loop in Madrid, has died of her injuries.
[Photo—Russell & Sons.]

DEATH FOLLOWS SCANDAL.

Sad End of One of Messrs. Showell's Managers.

The recent police-court proceedings at Birmingham against the managing director and secretary of Showell's Brewery Company on charges of conspiracy and fraud in the preparation of the company's balance-sheet have been followed by the suicide of Mr. J. H. Webb, the manager of the tied houses belonging to the brewery. It is supposed that his mind had been upset by the prosecution of members of the firm.

Mr. Webb's dead body was found shortly before noon yesterday on a piece of waste land near his residence at Edgbaston. In the morning he was at the office, and nothing unusual was then noticed in his manner. He had been in the employment of the brewery for more than thirty years.

FAILURES EXPECTED IN THE CITY.

The difficulties of the Stock Exchange were the difficulties foreshadowed and commented upon in the columns of the last few days. They were partly political and partly financial in origin, in addition to the Eastern fears there was a remarkable story started on the rounds as to a probable coalition of Russia with France and Germany. It served to excite the Stock market and the bourses. The fears of trouble continue, and in consequence the market is dull. The Stock Exchange is reported to be in a mess. One broker on that bourse committed suicide yesterday. It is thought that we may have some difficulties in London at the Stock Exchange next week.

All the investment stocks were weak, though bankers continued to take of gold received from the Continent, but they are probably over-sold. More to the point, however, is the fact that the end of the month higher money rates are probable. Consols showed decided weakness, but closed above the worst.

Home Railways were very sorry market. Wednesday's trading was dependent on the fear also of the war, and the bourses. The fear of a general outbreak of war was very strong, though many of the stocks looked very cheap.

Americans were knocked to pieces by the weakness of the stocks, and the loss of gold and money troubles. New York was very gloomy this afternoon, and so the loss was practically at the worst.

Canadian Railways gave way sharply on the news of the war, and the pressed surroundings. The fear is that the bad weather may cause the expenditure ratio to advance substantially. Heavy profit-taking was the rule in Argentine Railways at one time, but they rallied slightly from the worst. Mexican Railways also gave way, perhaps because silver was lower.

Once more it was the Foreign Market which felt the stress. Everything was marked down. Where there were no special causes as, for instance, the connection of Turas with possible Balkan developments, the effect of the news of Spanish in connection with fears of insurrections, the market looked very sorry. The war bonds lost ground all day, and Copper shares were weak on the fall in the price of silver.

In the Miscellaneous group the recent spasmodic movement in the meat shares is being followed by a fall. Docks are fairly steady, and there is still some investment in electric lighting derivations. The increased consumption of electricity for purposes other than lighting "Illustrated London News" shares were dull on the report; but the report of Peck Frean and Co. was enough to cause some demand for the shares of the company.

In the Kaffir market there was general weakness. The present good points are now pretty well exhausted, and the Continent is selling considerable amounts. Consols were flat. All other mining sections were inclined to give way without any special feature developing.

The Diary of The War

Photographs.

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